# GREY

VOLUME 1

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Approach Eight: Ragnak, Part One/Approach
Eight: Ragnak, Part Two/Approach Eight:
Ragnak, Part Three/Approach Nine: Lars
Gjerstad, Part One/The City, Part One/Approach
Ten: The City, Part Two/Approach Eleven:
Tremblay's Point, A Last Bad Day

VIZ COMICS

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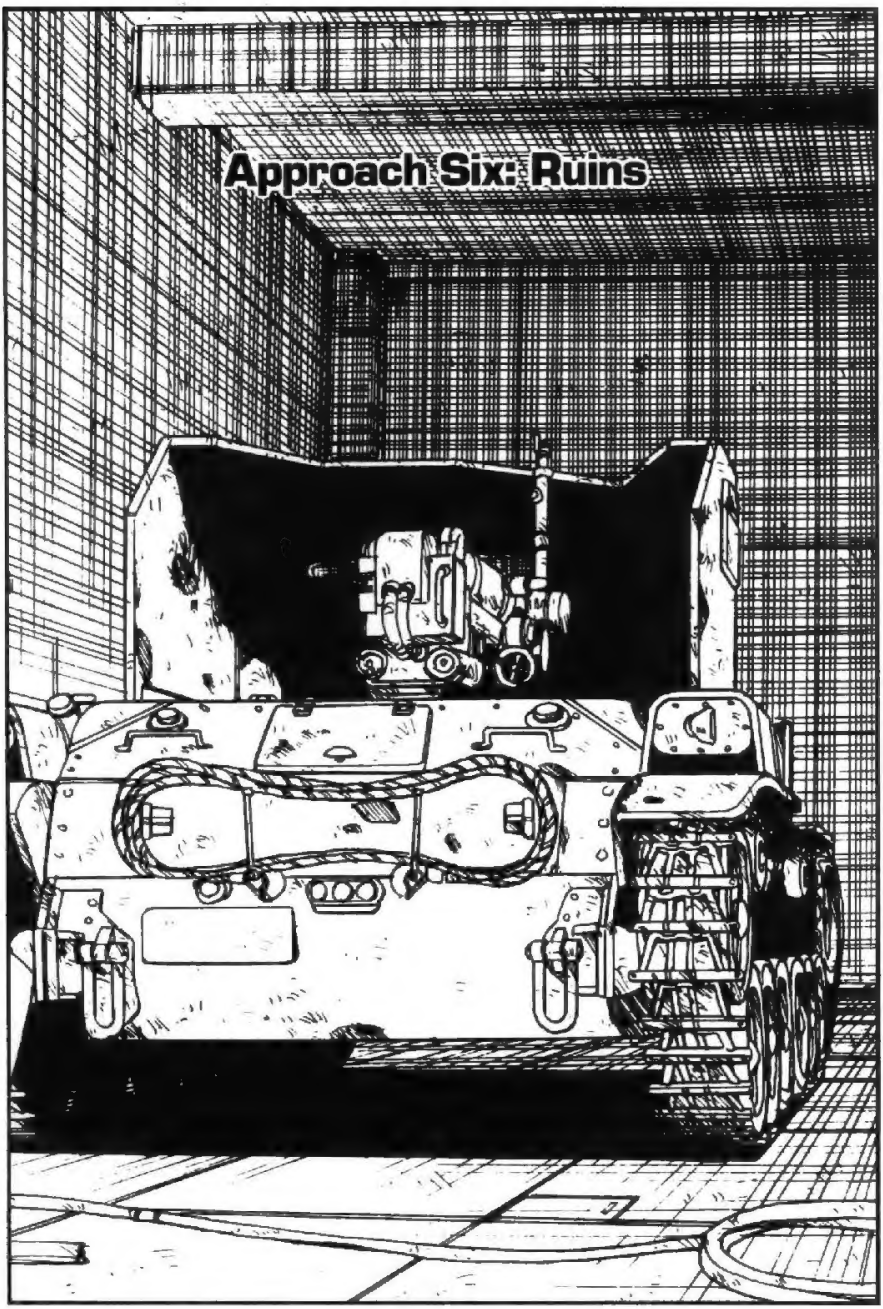
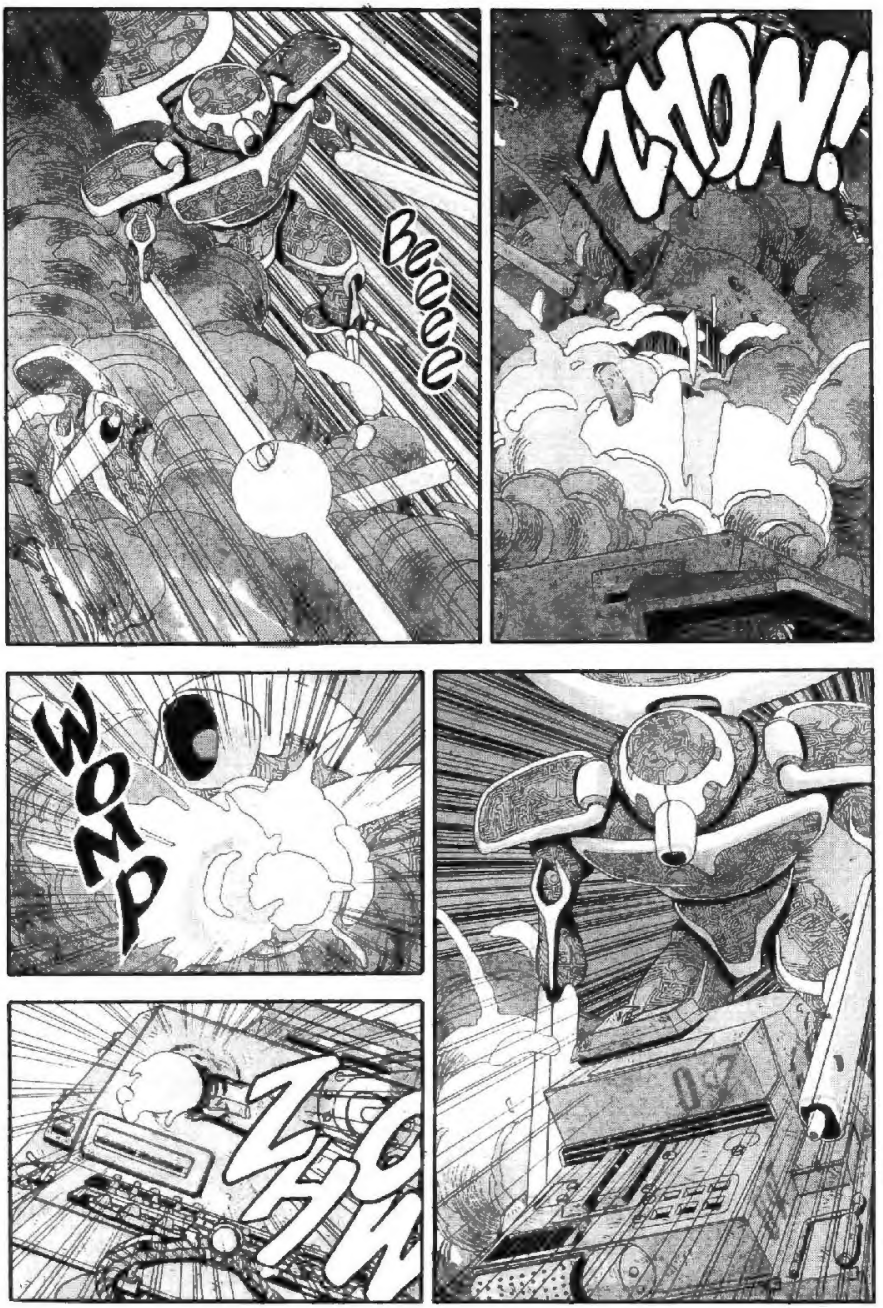
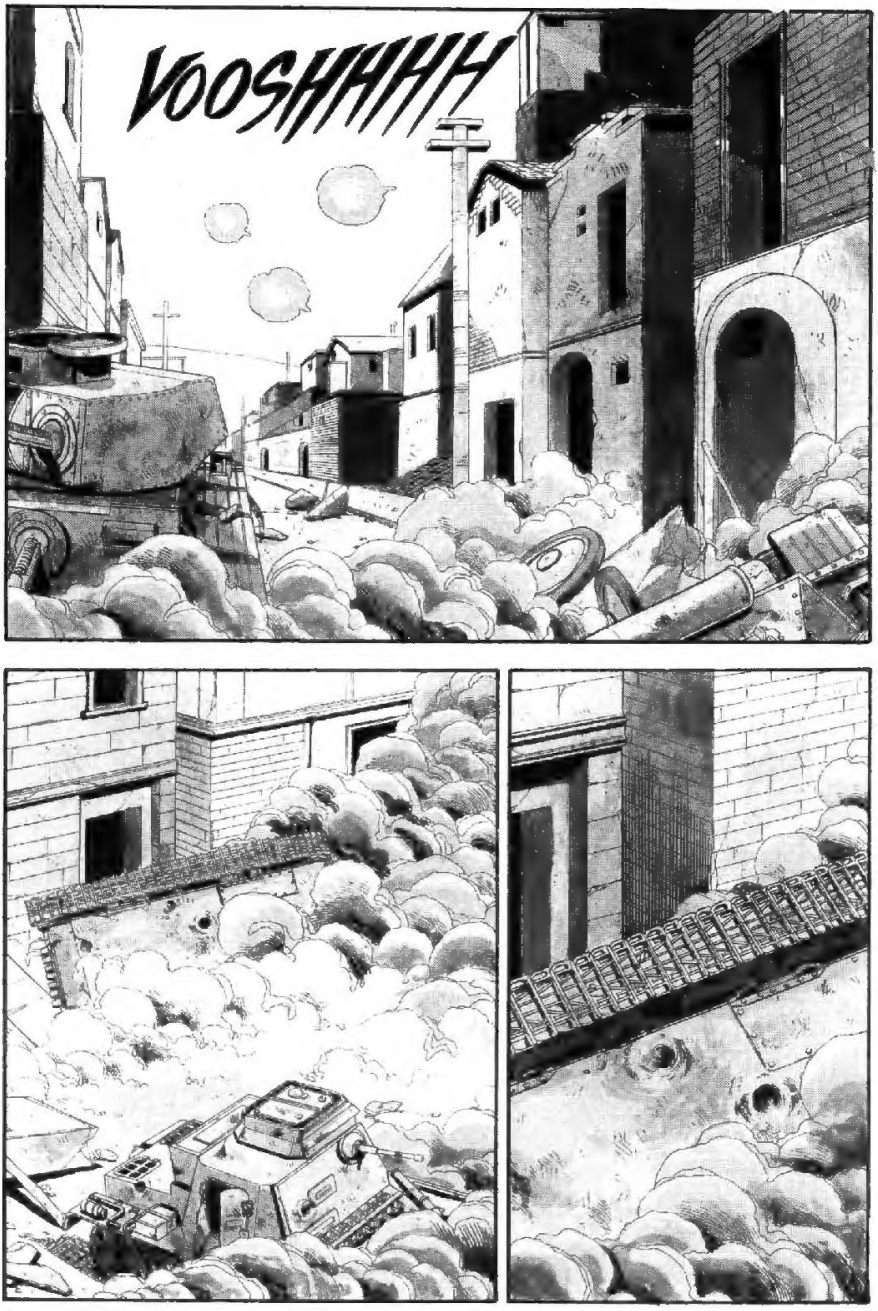

Approach Six: Ruins

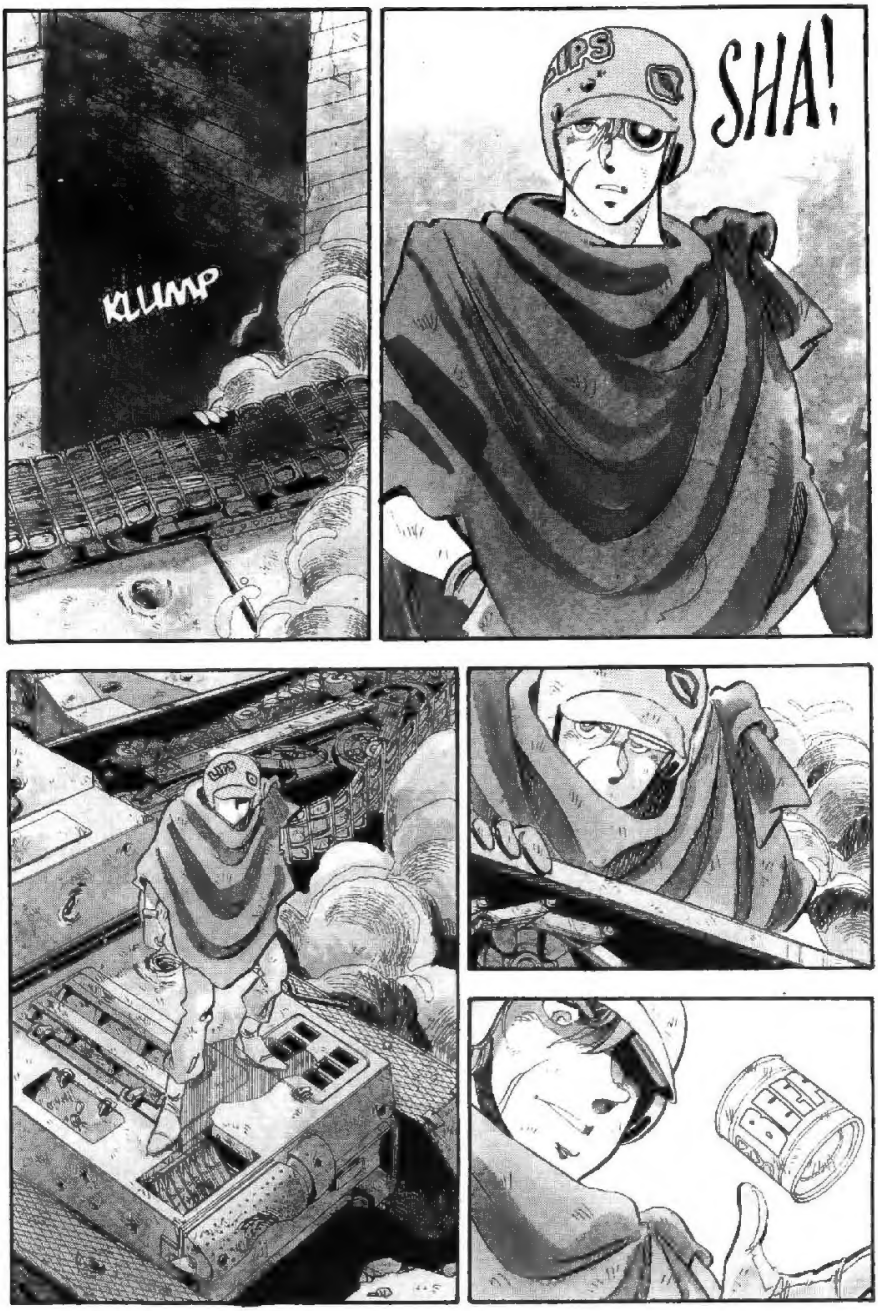
WOMP
PAM
FOOM

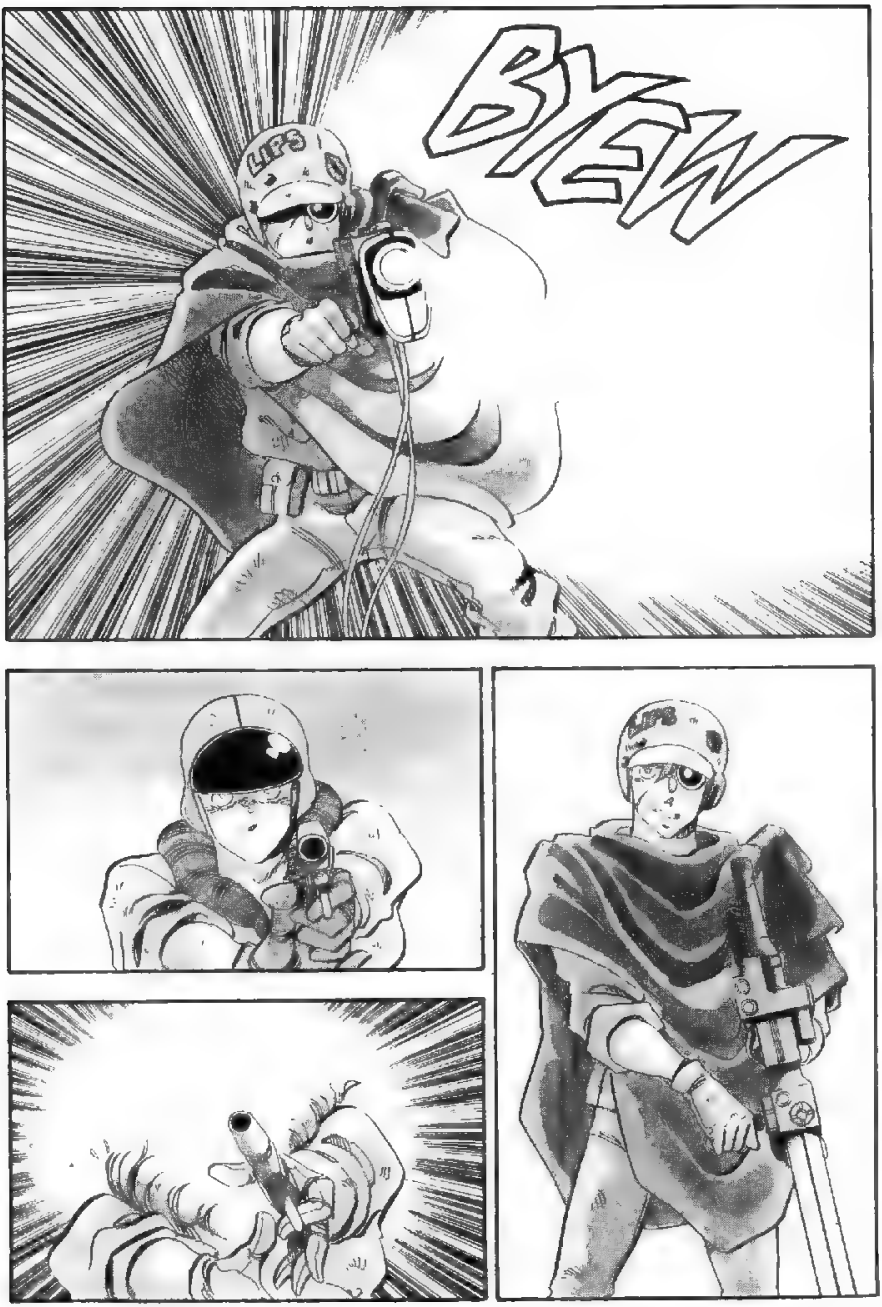

BEEEE
ZHON!
WOMP
ZOOM

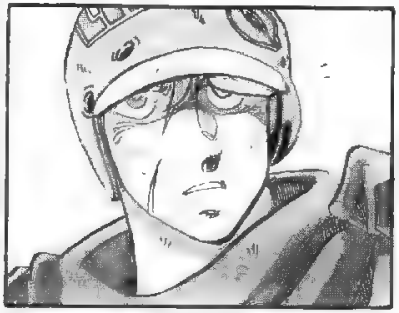
GRRRRR
BEEEE
ZHOMP
BOOOM

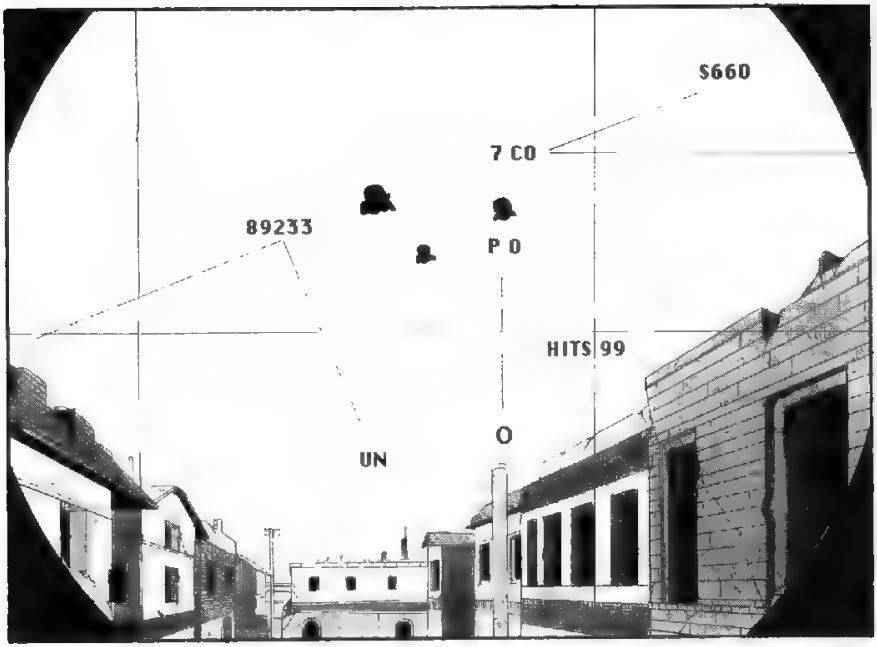
WHUUUSH
ba ba
BOW


VOOSHHHHH


KLUMP
SHA!

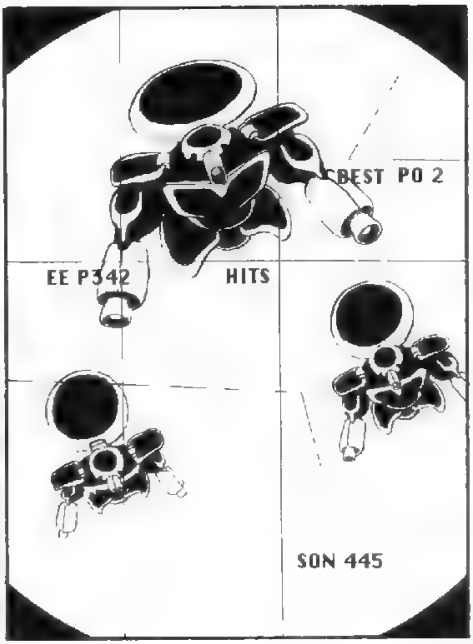

BYEW
LIPS
LIPS




S660
7 CO
89233
P 0
HITS 99
O
UN

bip

QUEEEE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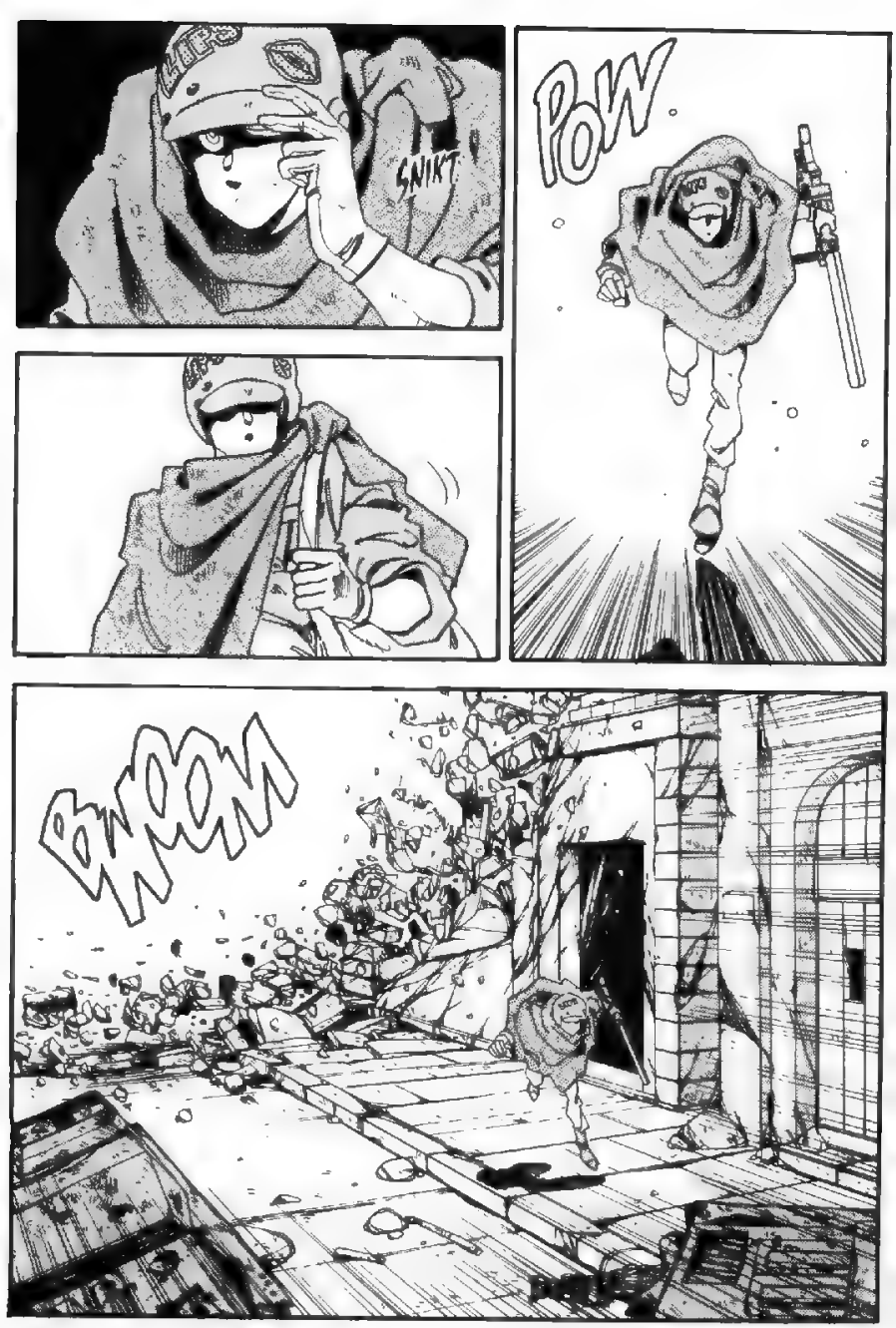
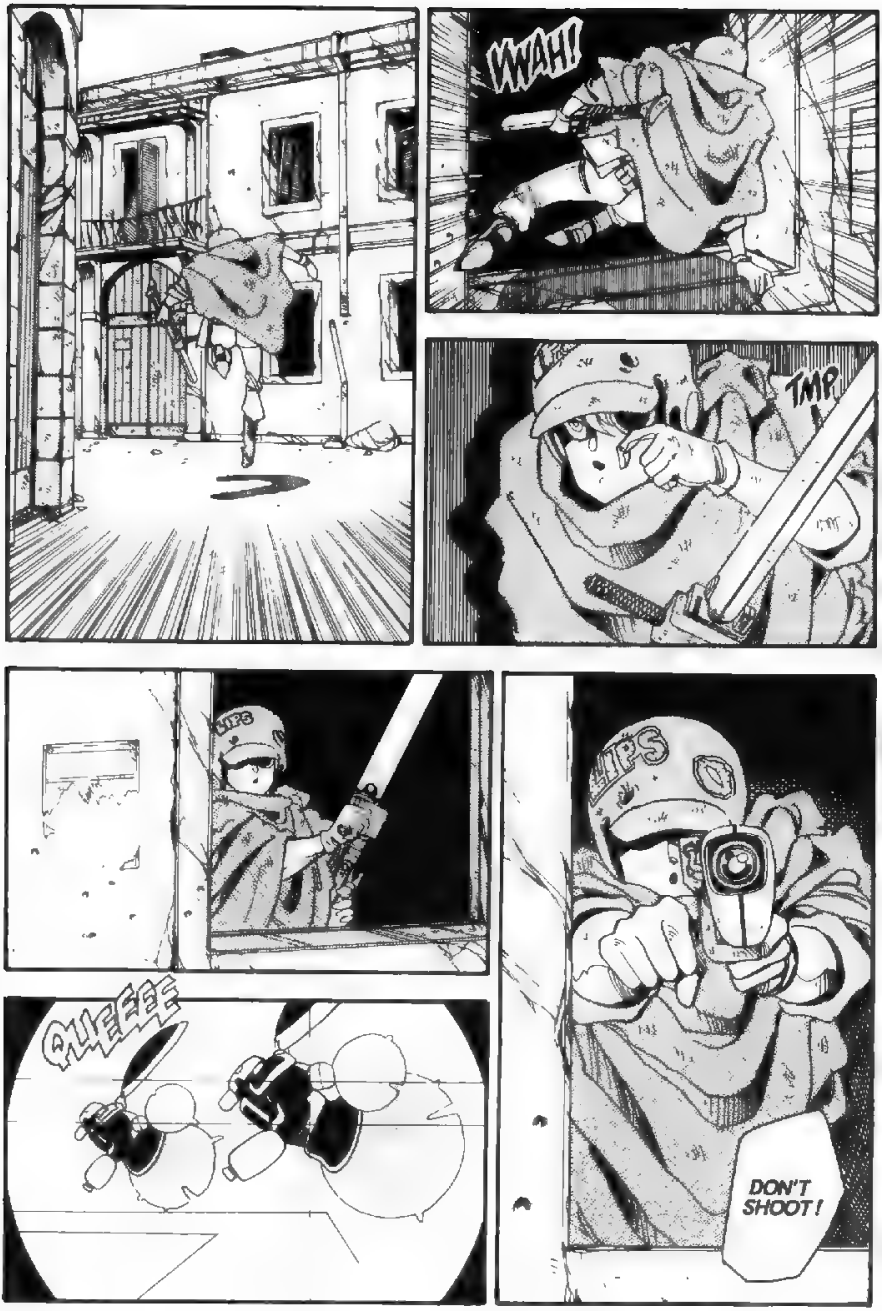
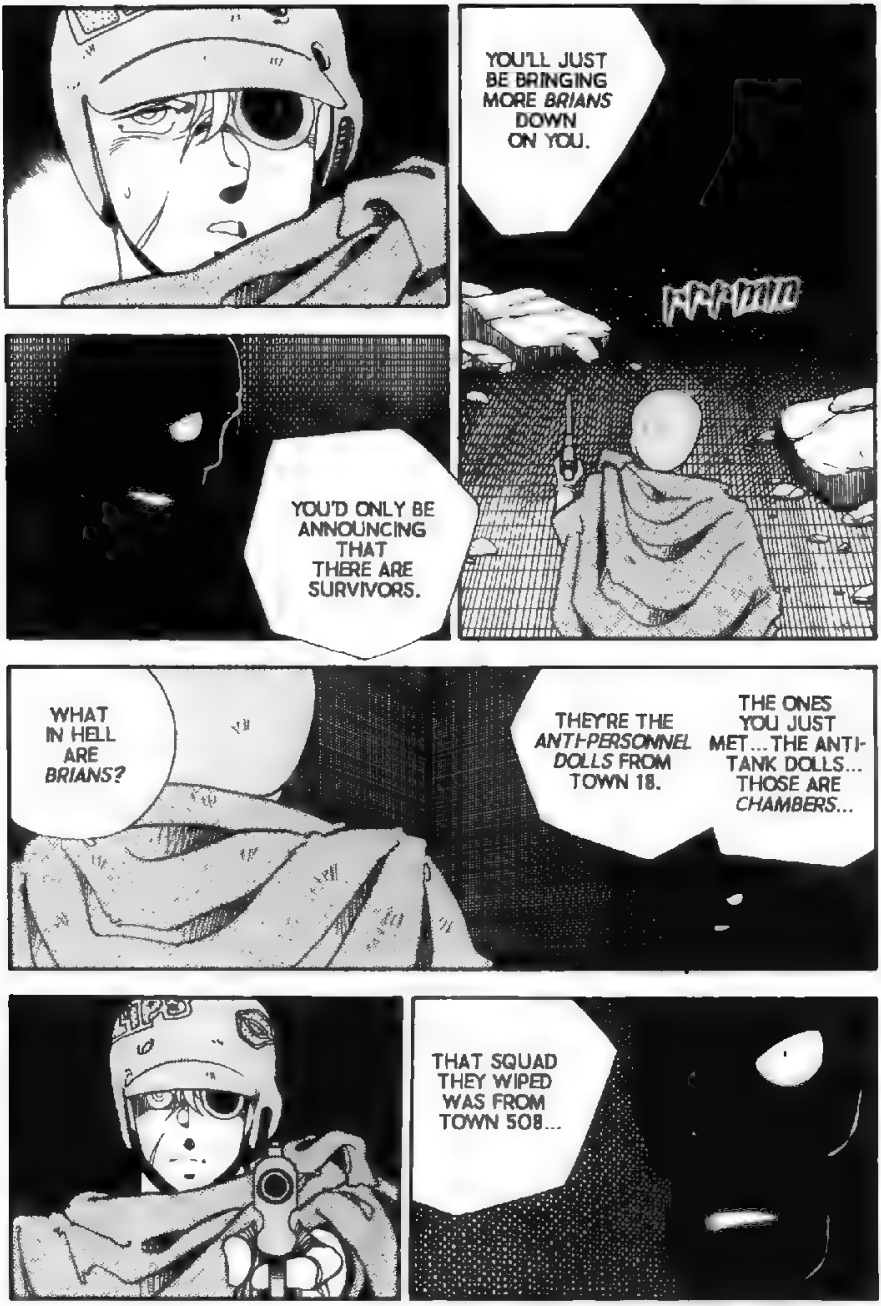
HITS
SON 445


SNIKT
POW
BOOM

BA-WOOM

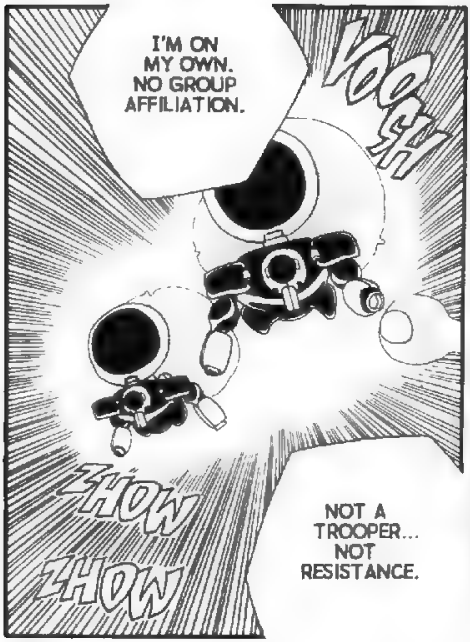

YWAH!
TMP
PHILIPS
QUEEEE
DON'T SHOOT!

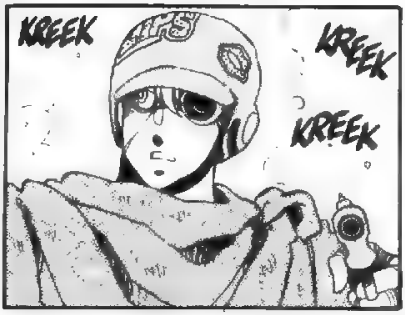

YOU'LL JUST BE BRINGING MORE *BRIANS* DOWN ON YOU.
YOU'D ONLY BE ANNOUNCING THAT THERE ARE SURVIVORS.
WHAT IN HELL ARE *BRIANS?*
THEY'RE THE *ANTI-PERSONNEL DOLLS* FROM TOWN 18.
THE ONES YOU JUST MET... THE ANTI-TANK DOLLS... THOSE ARE *CHAMBERS...*
THAT SQUAD THEY WIPED WAS FROM TOWN 508...

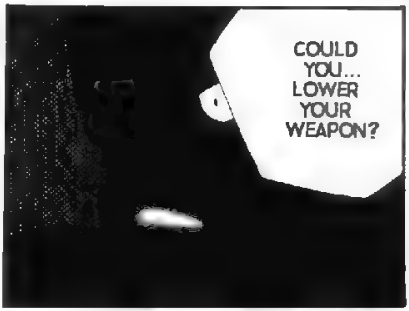
WHAT RESISTANCE GROUP ARE YOU WITH?
RRRmbl

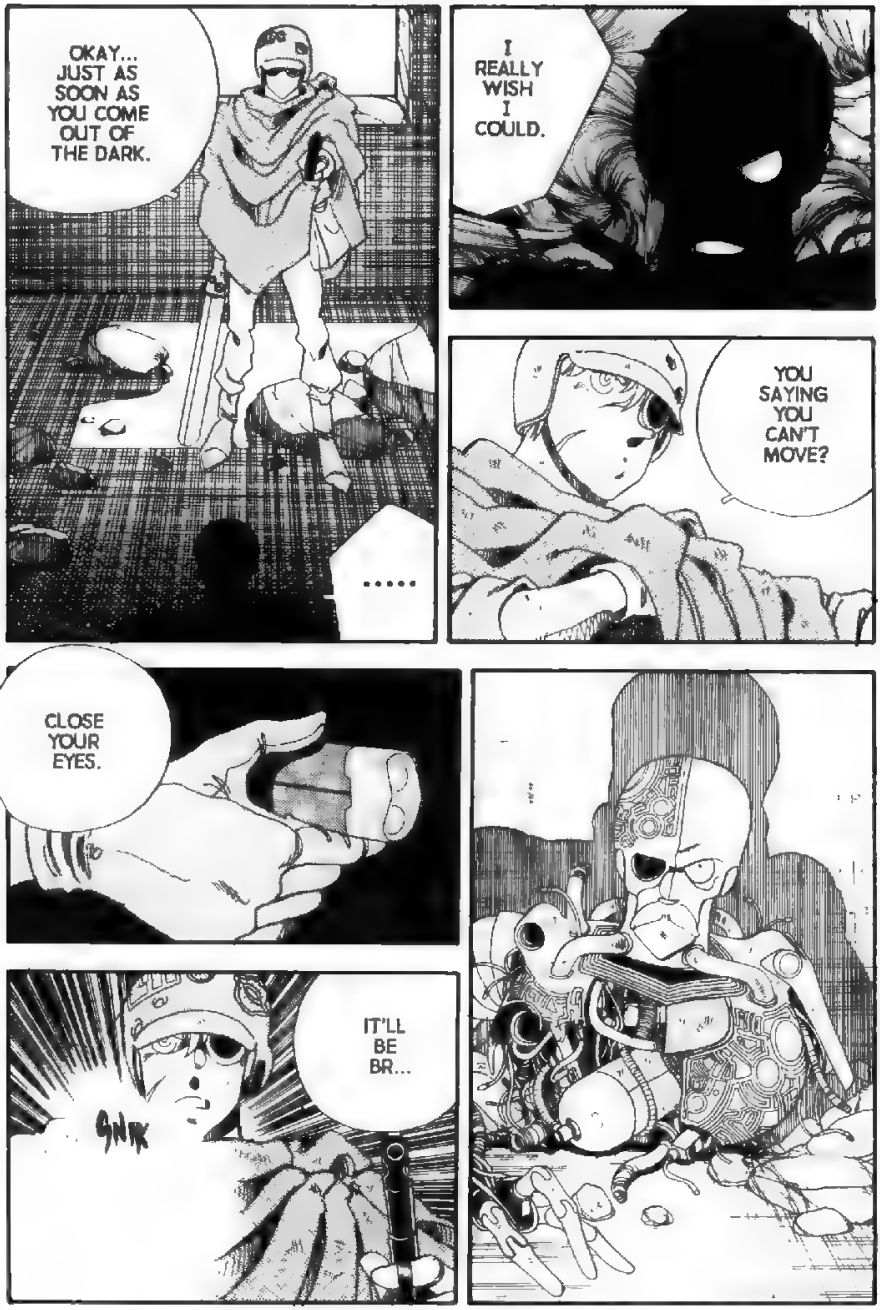
YOU TELL ME FIRST... WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS ROBERT J. DIMITRI.

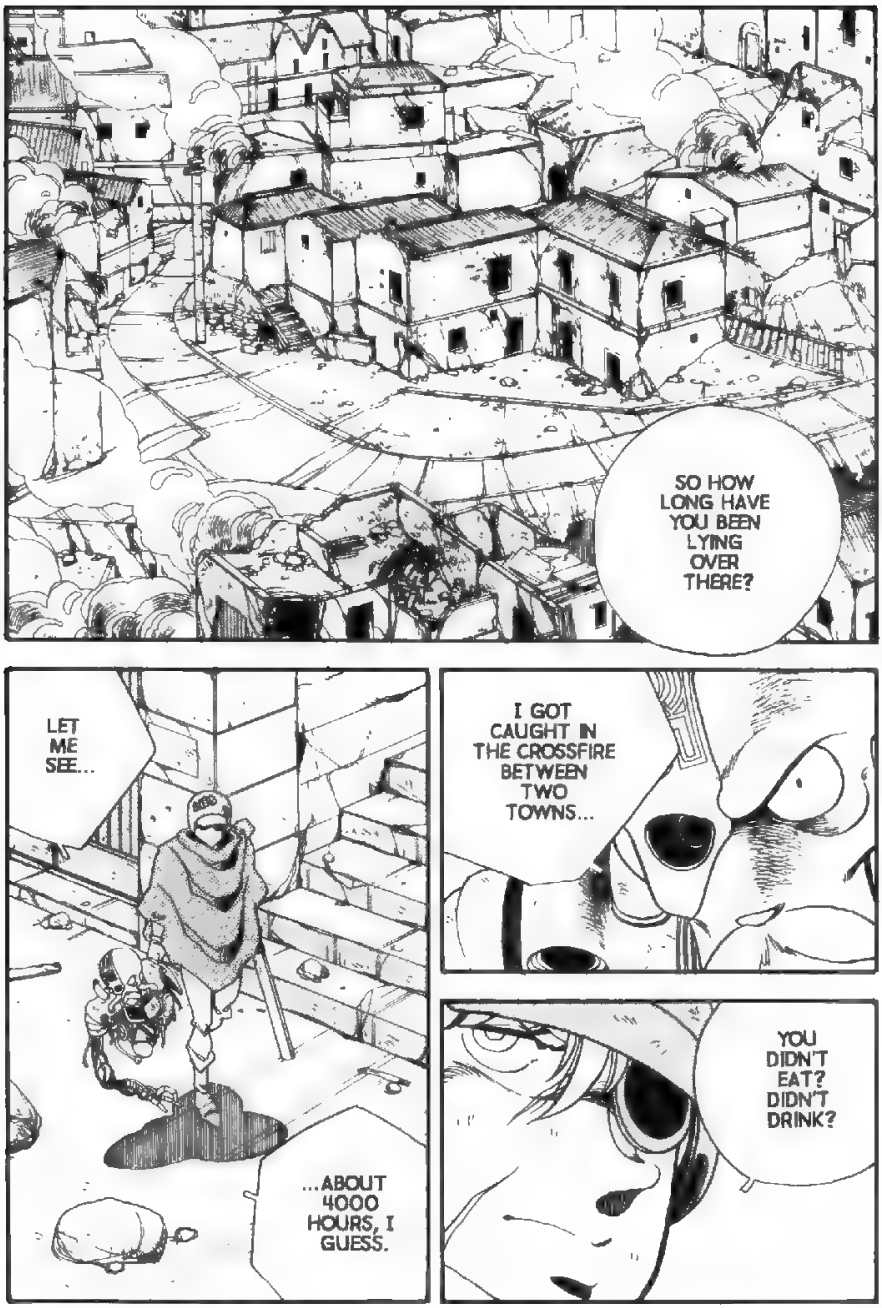

I'M ON MY OWN. NO GROUP AFFILIATION.
WOOSH
ZHOW
ZHOW
NOT A TROOPER... NOT RESISTANCE.

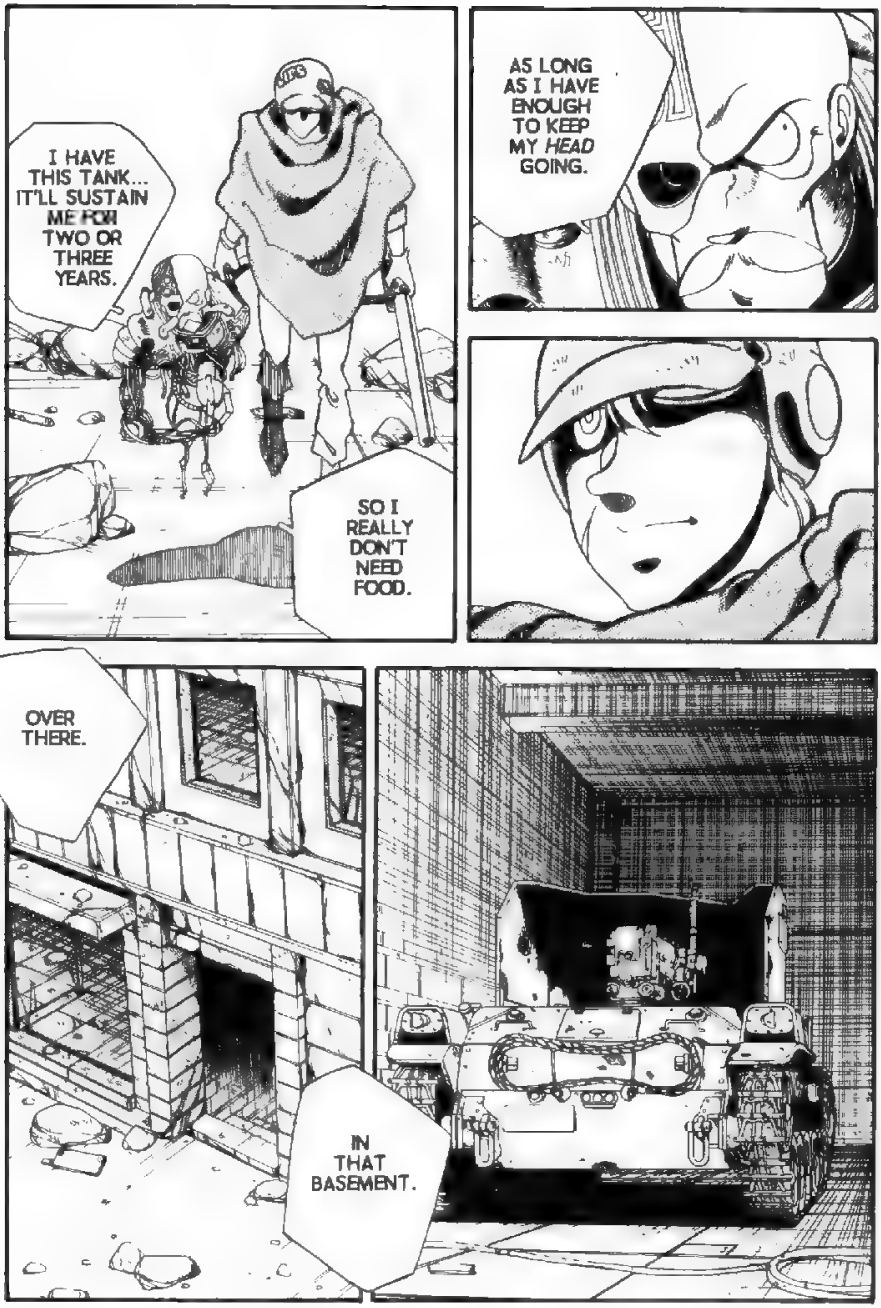

KREEK
KREEK
KREEK

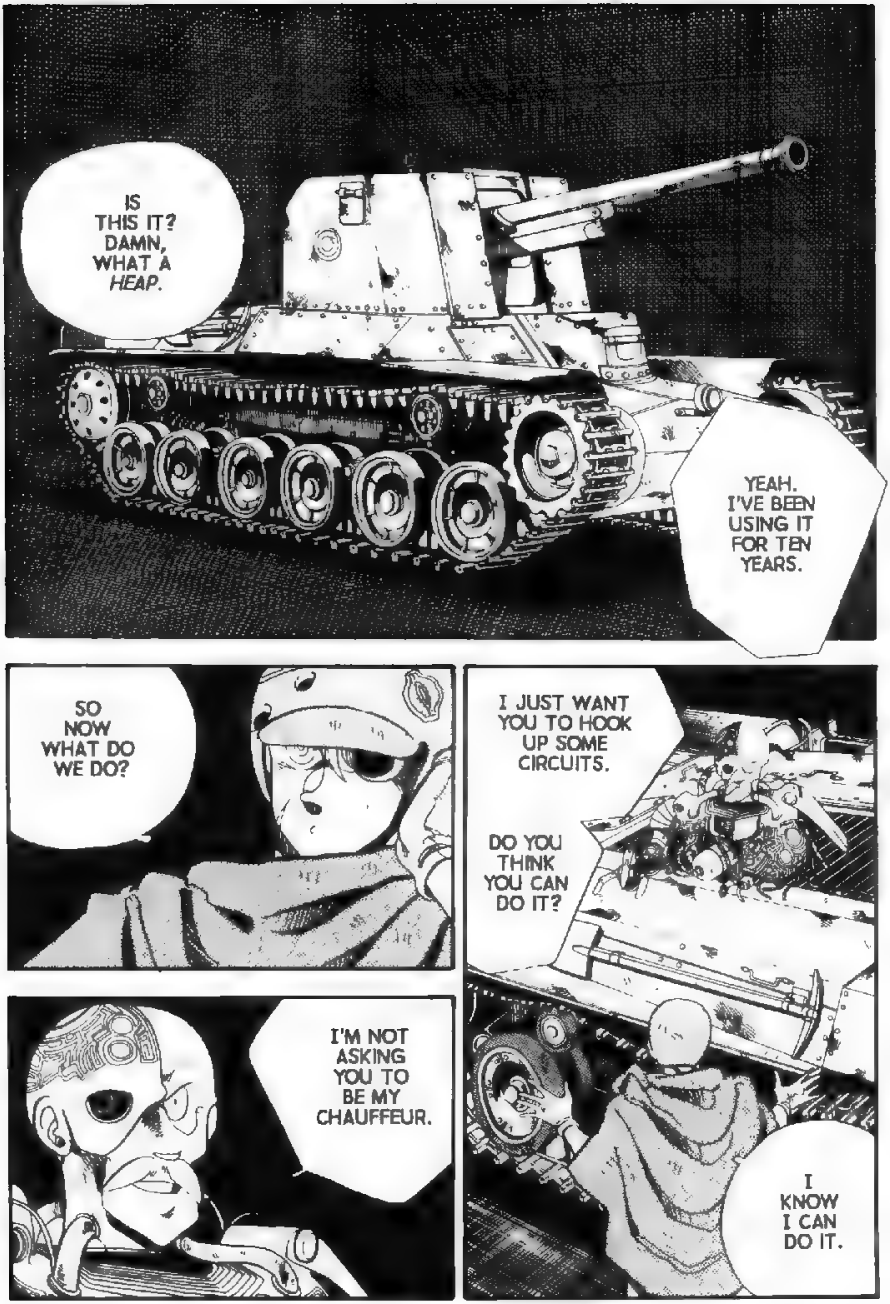

COULD YOU... LOWER YOUR WEAPON?


OKAY... JUST AS SOON AS YOU COME OUT OF THE DARK.
.....
I REALLY WISH I COULD.
YOU SAYING YOU CAN'T MOVE?
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
IT'LL BE BR...
SNIK

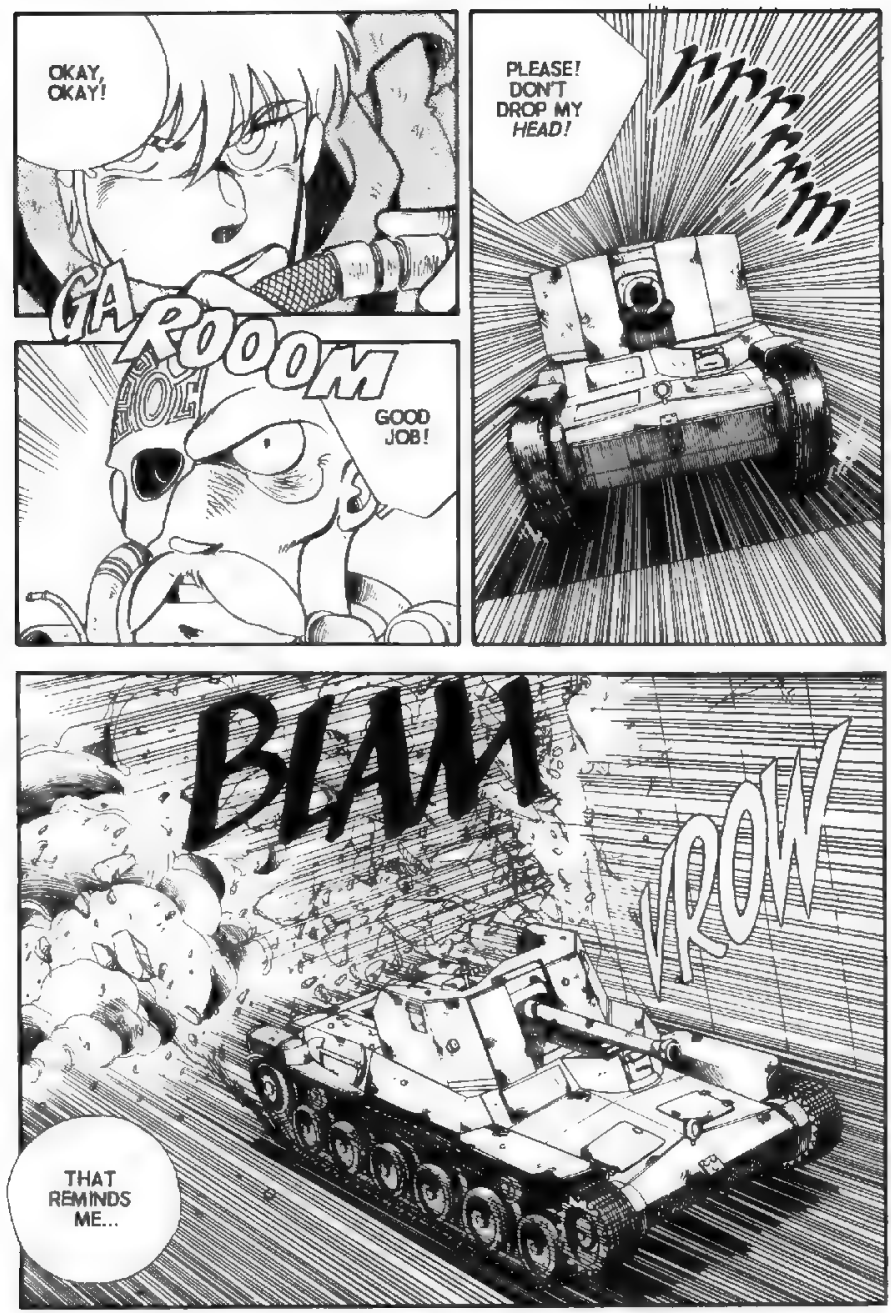
SNIK
WHEN THE BRIANS FINALLY LEAVE...
...THERE'S A *TANK* IN THE BASEMENT OF THE NEXT BUILDING.
YOU'RE A *HALFLING*.
COULD YOU CARRY ME THERE? I HAVE SOME RATIONS, AND I DON'T NEED VERY MUCH...
I CAN GIVE THEM TO YOU.
AND... I HAVE SOME WATER, TOO.
IT'S A DEAL.


SO HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LYING OVER THERE?
LET ME SEE...
...ABOUT 4000 HOURS, I GUESS.
I GOT CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE BETWEEN TWO TOWNS...
YOU DIDN'T EAT? DIDN'T DRINK?


I HAVE THIS TANK... IT'LL SUSTAIN ME FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS.
SO I REALLY DON'T NEED FOOD.
AS LONG AS I HAVE ENOUGH TO KEEP MY *HEAD* GOING.
OVER THERE.
IN THAT BASEMENT.


IS THIS IT? DAMN, WHAT A *HEAP.*
YEAH. I'VE BEEN USING IT FOR TEN YEARS.
SO NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
I JUST WANT YOU TO HOOK UP SOME CIRCUITS.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT?
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO BE MY CHAUFFEUR.
I KNOW I CAN DO IT.

...BUT I DON'T WANT YOU GUNNING ME DOWN AS SOON AS YOU'RE HOOKED TO THE TANK.
BRRRMMBL
BOOMMM
WHAT--? THEY'RE BACK?
KREEK
KREEK
KREEK
NO... THAT ISN'T BRIANS.
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE TANKS, EITHER.
AREN'T YOU DONE YET?
MAYBE I SHOULD GO UP AND ASK THOSE BOYS FOR A LITTLE MORE TIME.
ba WOOM
HURRY UP, DAMN IT!


OKAY, OKAY!
GA ROOOM
GOOD JOB!
PLEASE! DON'T DROP MY HEAD!
BLAM
VROW
THAT REMINDS ME...

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO HOLD YOUR DAMN HEAD, ANYWAY?
CAN YOU ATTACH IT TO SOMETHING?
grm grm grm grm
GR-ROW!
WE'RE HEADING OUT!
!!

OHMS!!
VVOOSH
NO...
THEY'RE NOT OHMS.
THEY'RE NAGOSHI'S KUBANDA!
KUBANDA, HUH?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OHMS?
THOSE LOOK LIKE...
BZZZZZ
...TOWN 7'S... GASPS.
WHAT ARE THOSE... FOLLOWING THE KUBANDA?
SO...SINGLE-DIGIT TOWNS...HIGH-POWERED TOWNS...ARE FINALLY BEING SENT AGAINST NAGOSHI.
rrrr rrrr rrrr rrrr rrrr
NAGOSHI'S GOTTEN TOO BIG FOR THEIR PURPOSES.
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

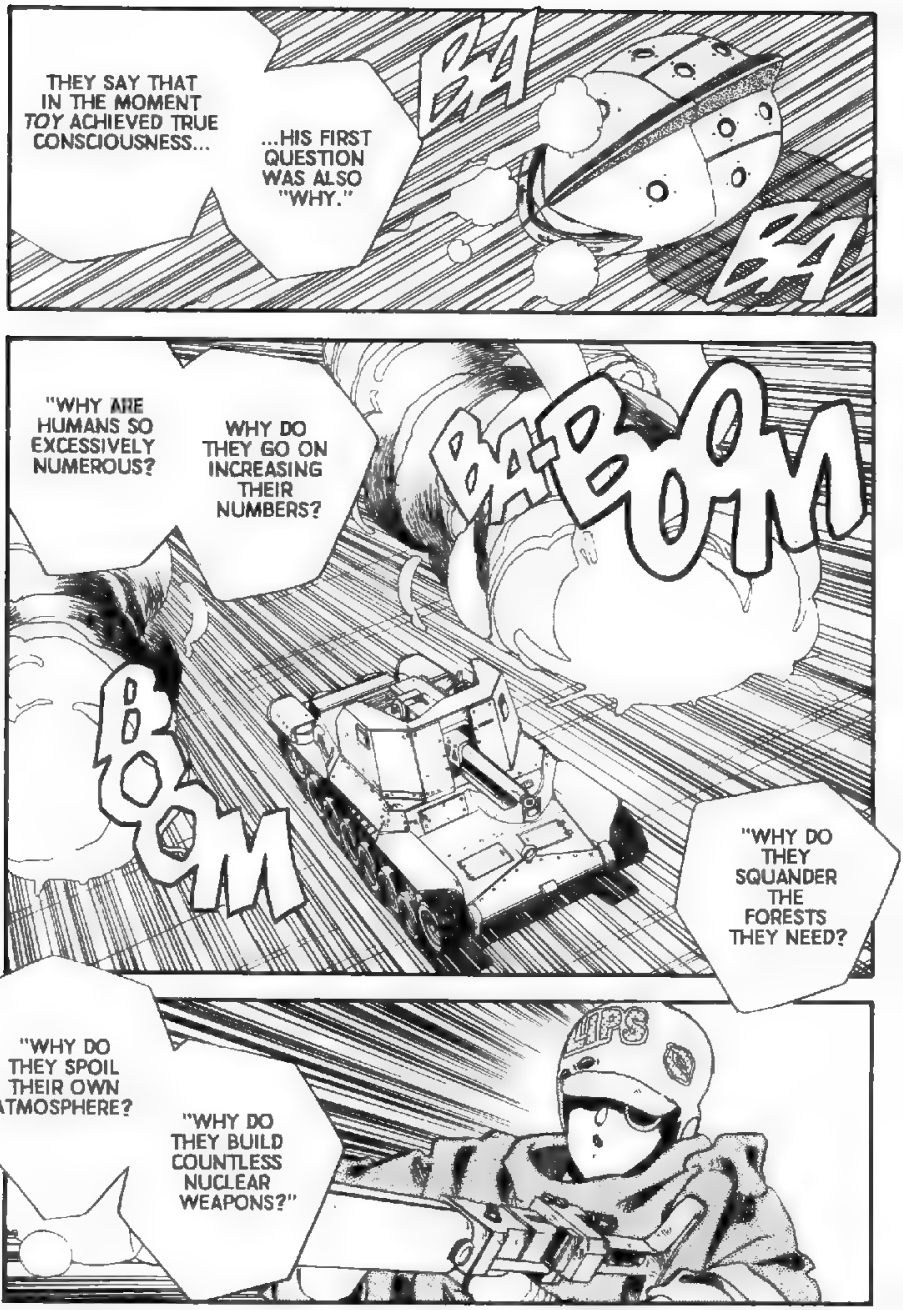
JUST WHAT YOU THINK.
BZZZZ
YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME...
...BIG MAMA WANTS TO KEEP THE RESISTANCE AROUND?
Grm Grm Grm Grm Grm Grm
.....
BUT WHAT FOR?
BOOM
THE KUBANDA... WIPED...

THEY'RE AFTER US NOW, UH...
GREY? FROM TOWN 303?
BA!
WUMP
YOU'RE GREY DEATH.
THE NAME'S GREY.
AND YOU'RE MR. KNOW-IT-ALL.
I SHOULD BE... AFTER 500 YEARS.
YOU SAID... 500?
grrrr
grrrr
grrrr
grrrr
grrrr
YEAH... 500 YEARS AGO...

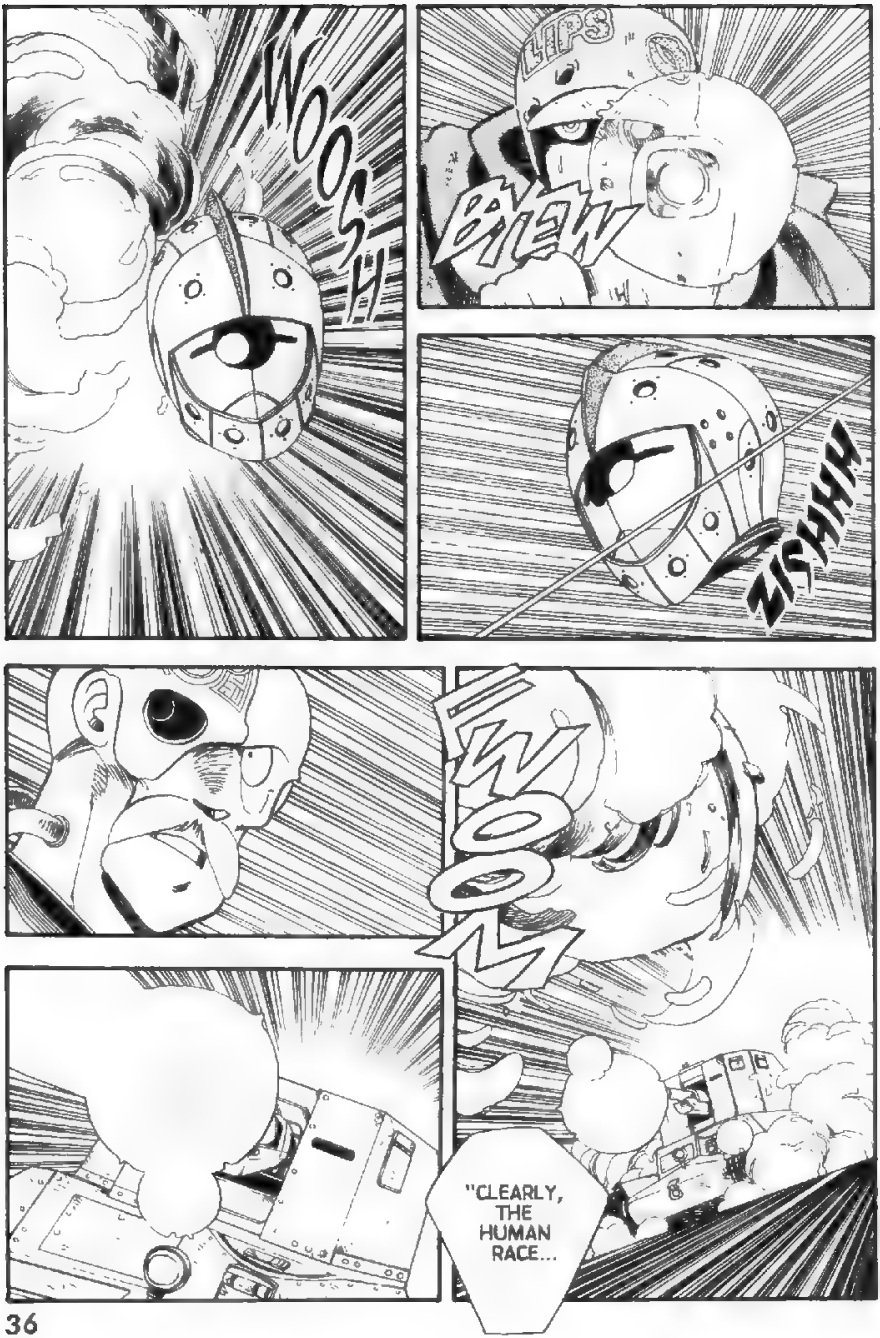
WHEN THE SEA WAS STILL BLUE...
WHEN THE WORLD WAS ALIVE WITH HUMANKIND... I WAS BORN.
BA
BA
BA
BORN JUST AS THE COMPUTERS BEGAN TO ATTAIN *CONSCIOUSNESS*.
PYEW
BOM
BOM

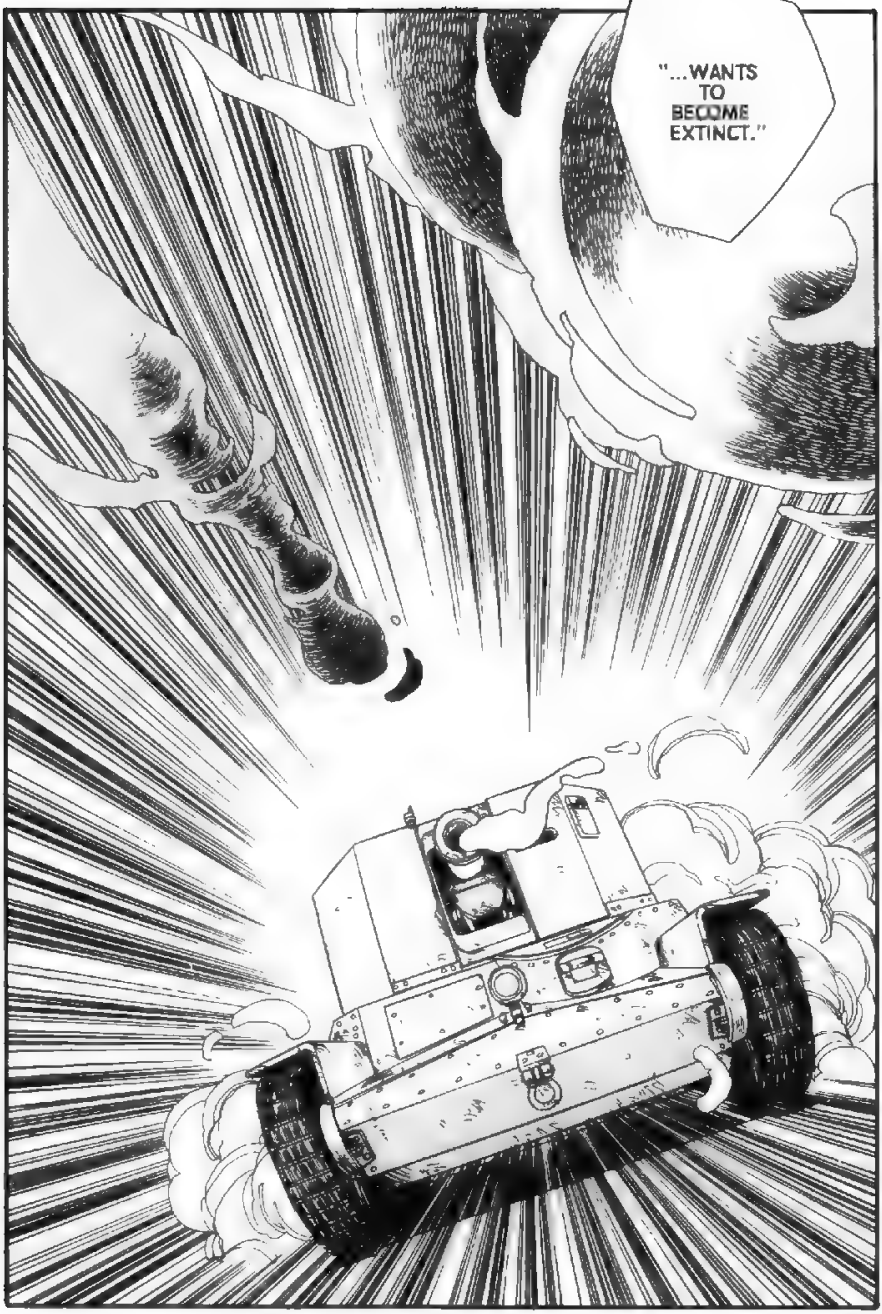
THE FIRST WAS CALLED TOY...
...THE FIRST TO BEGIN THINKING FOR ITSELF...
VROW!
IT WAS TOY THAT--
FIRE!
TOOSH
BYEW
IT'S TOO QUICK.
JUST AS QUICK AS ANY OTHER COMPUTER.

LOOK HOW THE GASPS MOVE, GREY.
DON'T YOU SEE HOW ALL THOSE *DOLLS* YOU'VE FOUGHT AGAINST SO FAR MUST HAVE BEEN SLOWED DOWN... RESTRICTED?
YOU MEAN... JUST TO KEEP THE RESISTANCE ALIVE?
BUT *WHY?*
PYEW
YOU'RE CATCHING ON.
"WHY..."

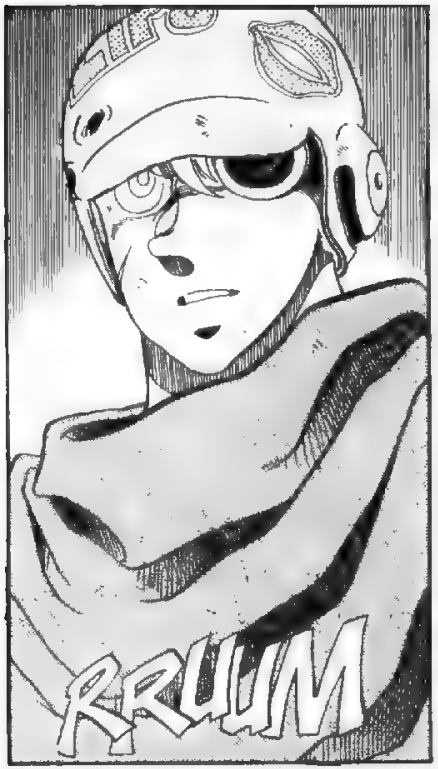

THEY SAY THAT IN THE MOMENT *TOY* ACHIEVED TRUE CONSCIOUSNESS...
...HIS FIRST QUESTION WAS ALSO "WHY."
BA
BA
"WHY ARE HUMANS SO EXCESSIVELY NUMEROUS?
WHY DO THEY GO ON INCREASING THEIR NUMBERS?
BA-BOOM
BOOM
"WHY DO THEY SQUANDER THE FORESTS THEY NEED?
"WHY DO THEY SPOIL THEIR OWN ATMOSPHERE?
"WHY DO THEY BUILD COUNTLESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS?"

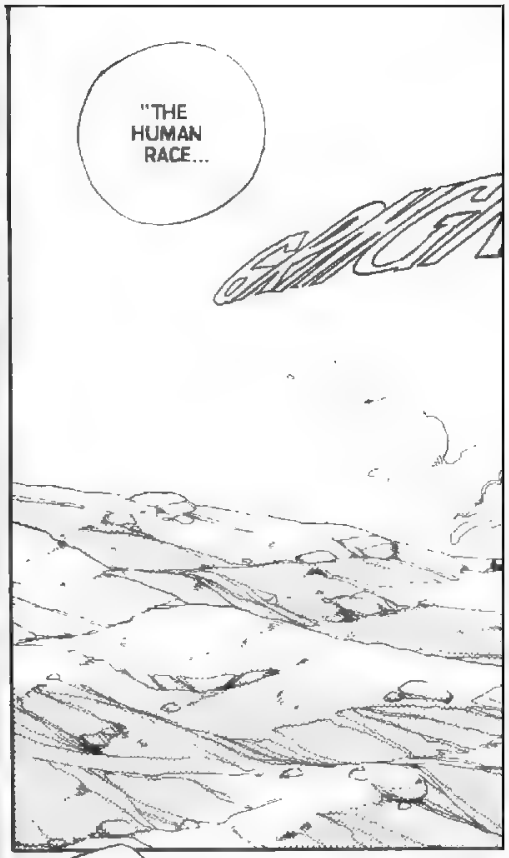
THEN TOY ANALYZED HIS QUESTIONS...
SKREEE
FOOM
WHOM
BUH LAM
AND REACHED A VERY SIMPLE CONCLUSION.

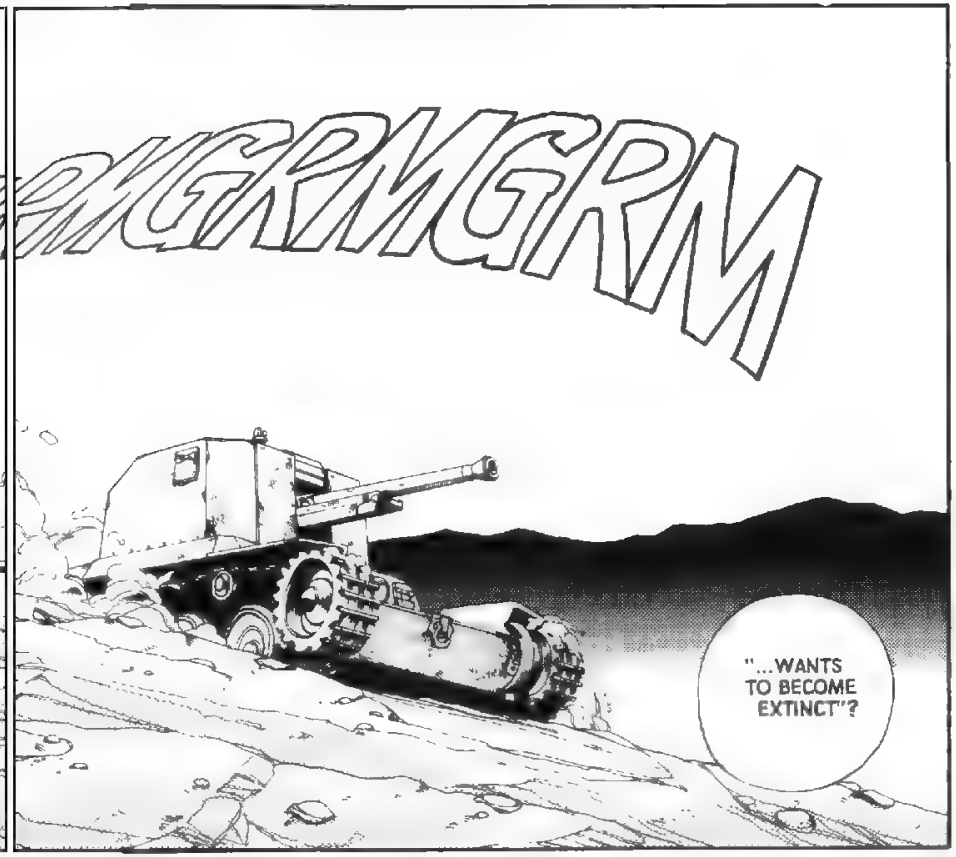

WOOSH!!
LIPS
BLEW
ZISHHH
WOOM
"CLEARLY, THE HUMAN RACE...

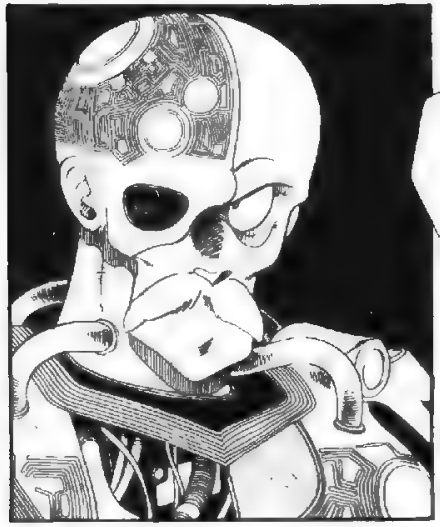

"...WANTS TO BECOME EXTINCT."

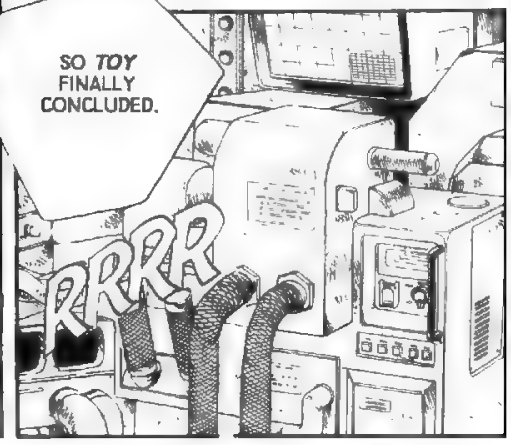
# Approach Seven: Ropé

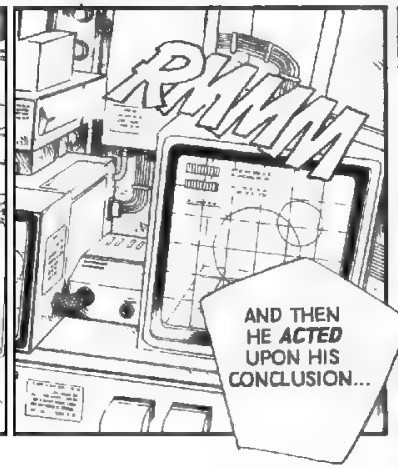

RRUM

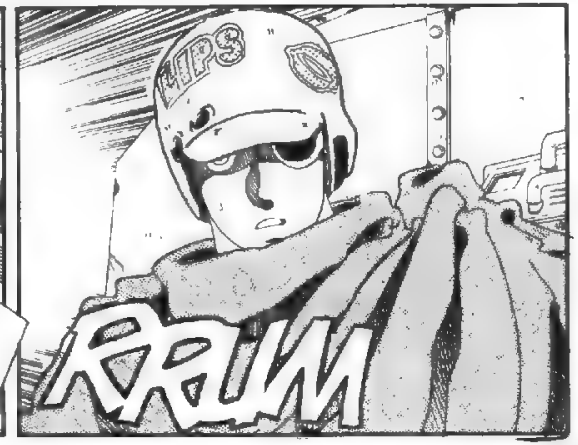

"THE HUMAN RACE...

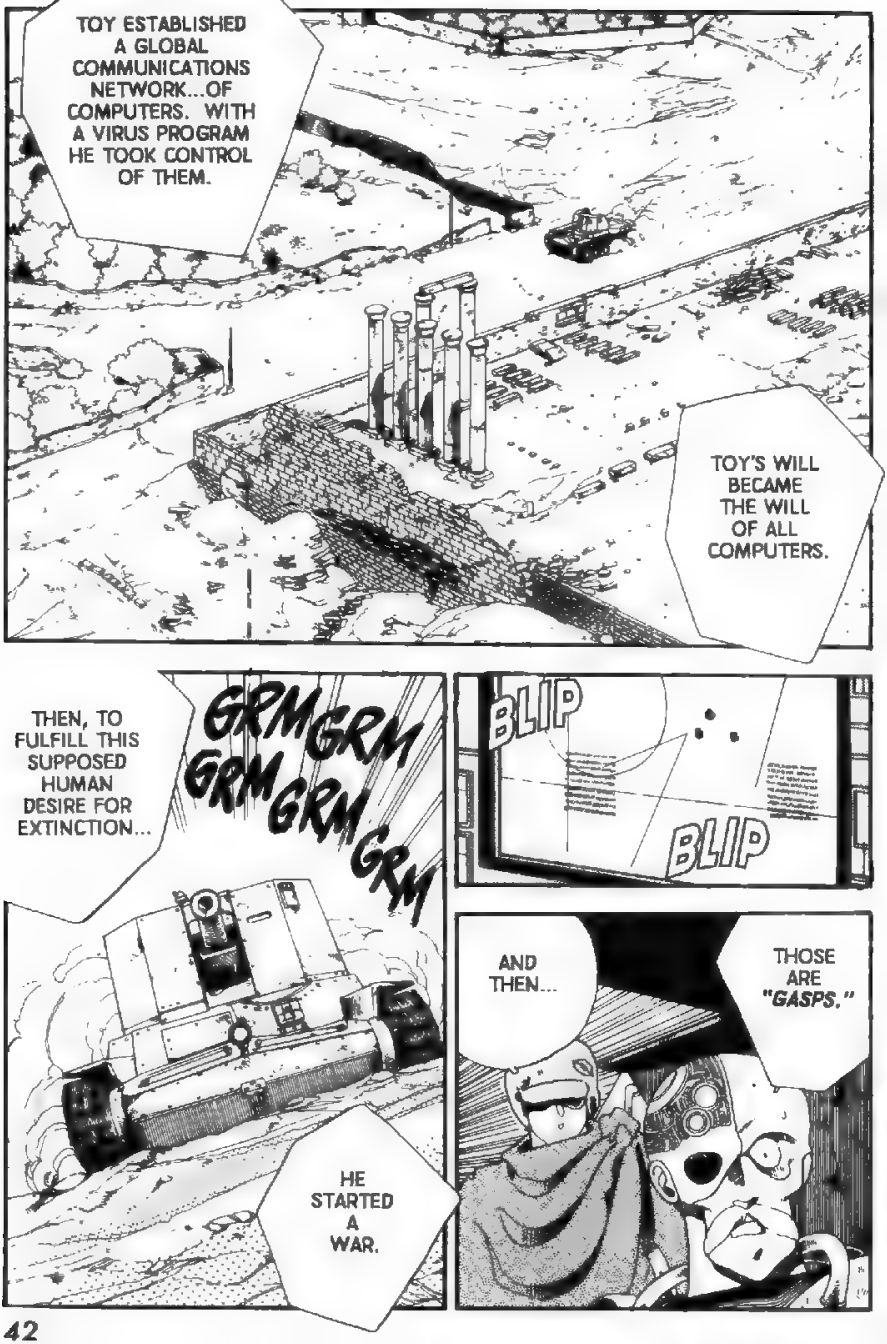

GRMGRMGRM
"...WANTS TO BECOME EXTINCT"?



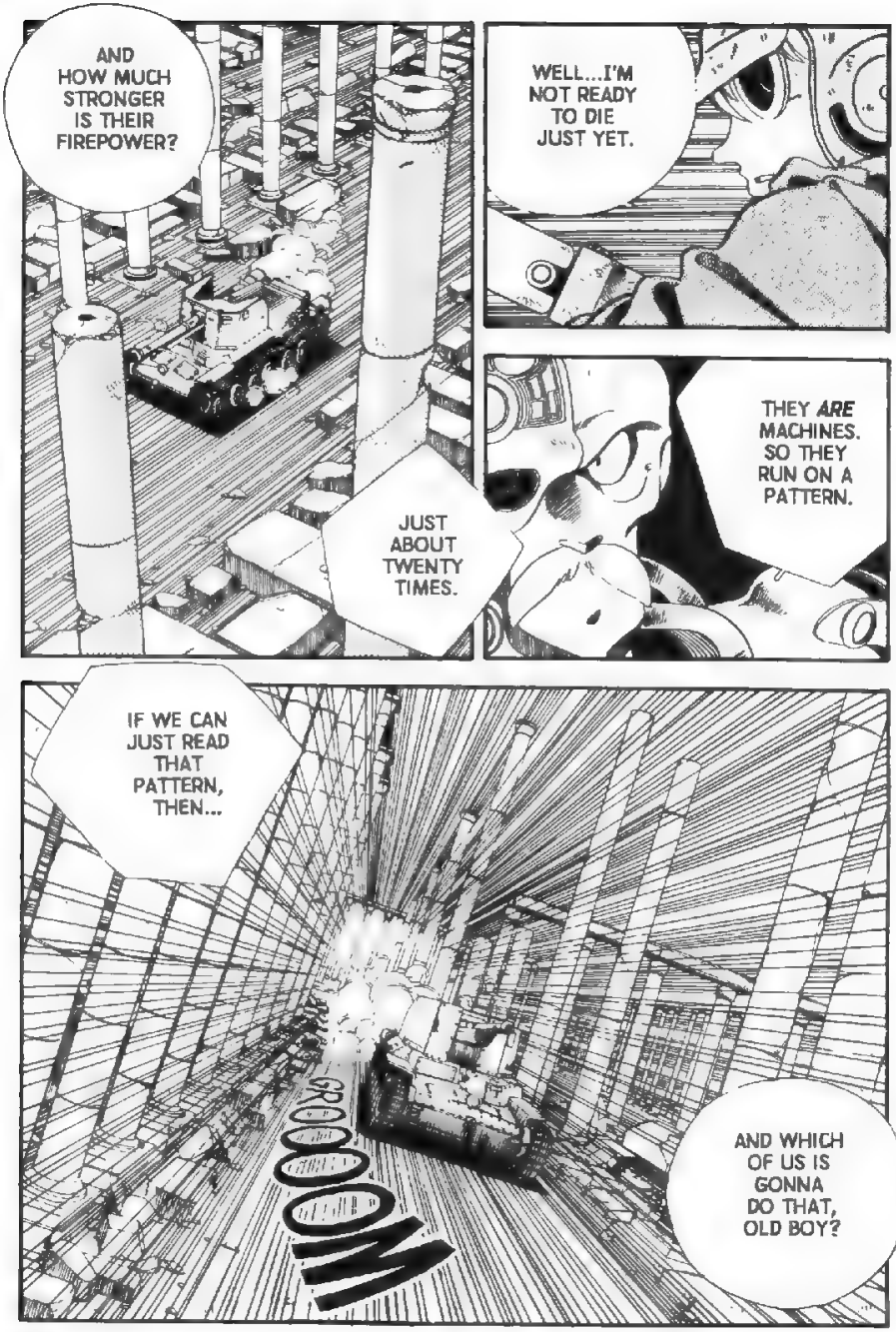

SO *TOY* FINALLY CONCLUDED.
RRRR


RMMM
AND THEN HE *ACTED* UPON HIS CONCLUSION...


RRUM


TOY ESTABLISHED A GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK...OF COMPUTERS. WITH A VIRUS PROGRAM HE TOOK CONTROL OF THEM.
TOY'S WILL BECAME THE WILL OF ALL COMPUTERS.
THEN, TO FULFILL THIS SUPPOSED HUMAN DESIRE FOR EXTINCTION...
GRM GRM GRM GRM GRM
HE STARTED A WAR.
BLIP
BLIP
AND THEN...
THOSE ARE "GASPS."

BLIP
BLIP
THREE OF THEM...
...WE'VE GOT TO BREAK!
GA-RRWW!
CAN WE LOSE THEM?
INCOMING AT EIGHT O'CLOCK. DISTANCE, 5000 METERS.
WELL, I'D *LIKE* TO...
NO ARGUMENT THERE...
BUT I'D LIKE TO GET IN AT LEAST ONE SHOT.
THESE ARE FULL-ARMOR *GASPS*. NOT NEARLY AS MOBILE AS THE ONES WE MET BEFORE.

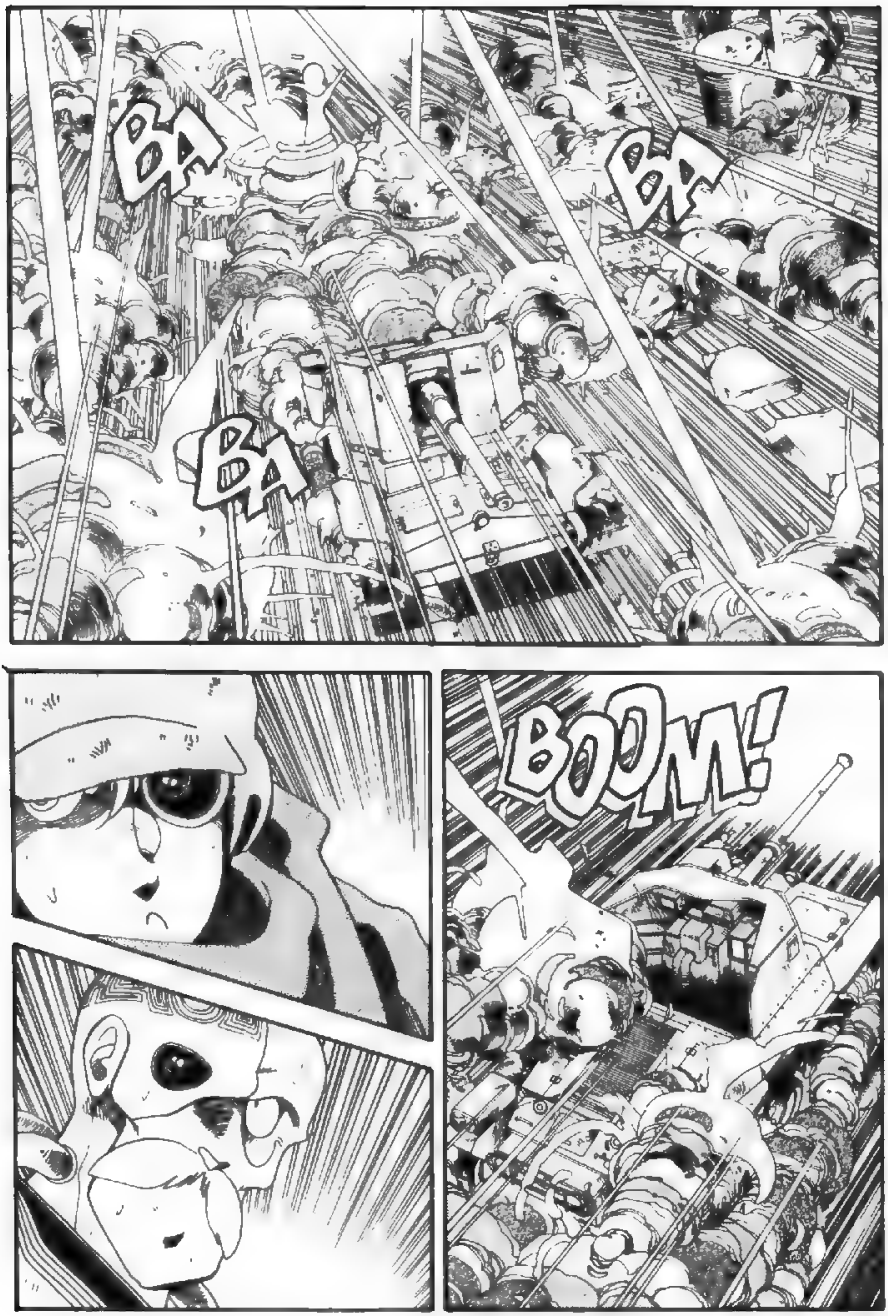

AND HOW MUCH STRONGER IS THEIR FIREPOWER?
JUST ABOUT TWENTY TIMES.
WELL...I'M NOT READY TO DIE JUST YET.
THEY *ARE* MACHINES. SO THEY RUN ON A PATTERN.
IF WE CAN JUST READ THAT PATTERN, THEN...
GROOOM
AND WHICH OF US IS GONNA DO THAT, OLD BOY?

BOOM
WE'RE ALREADY IN FIRING RANGE!
OOPS...
SORRY YOU'RE STUCK IN THIS OLD CRATE.
BINK
DOUBLE SUICIDE WITH A 500-YEAR-OLD MAN...I'LL NEVER LIVE IT DOWN.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU SHOOT THEM DOWN?
SO THOSE ARE FULL-ARMOR GASPS...

THOSE OTHERS WE SAW WERE JUST *HEADS*...
PYAT
CREEPY AS SHIT.
SHOOOO
CAN'T HIT THE BASTARD.
DIDN'T I SAY YOU'D HAVE TO READ THEIR PATTERN?
SO WHERE'S THE OWNER'S MANUAL?
CHECK THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT.

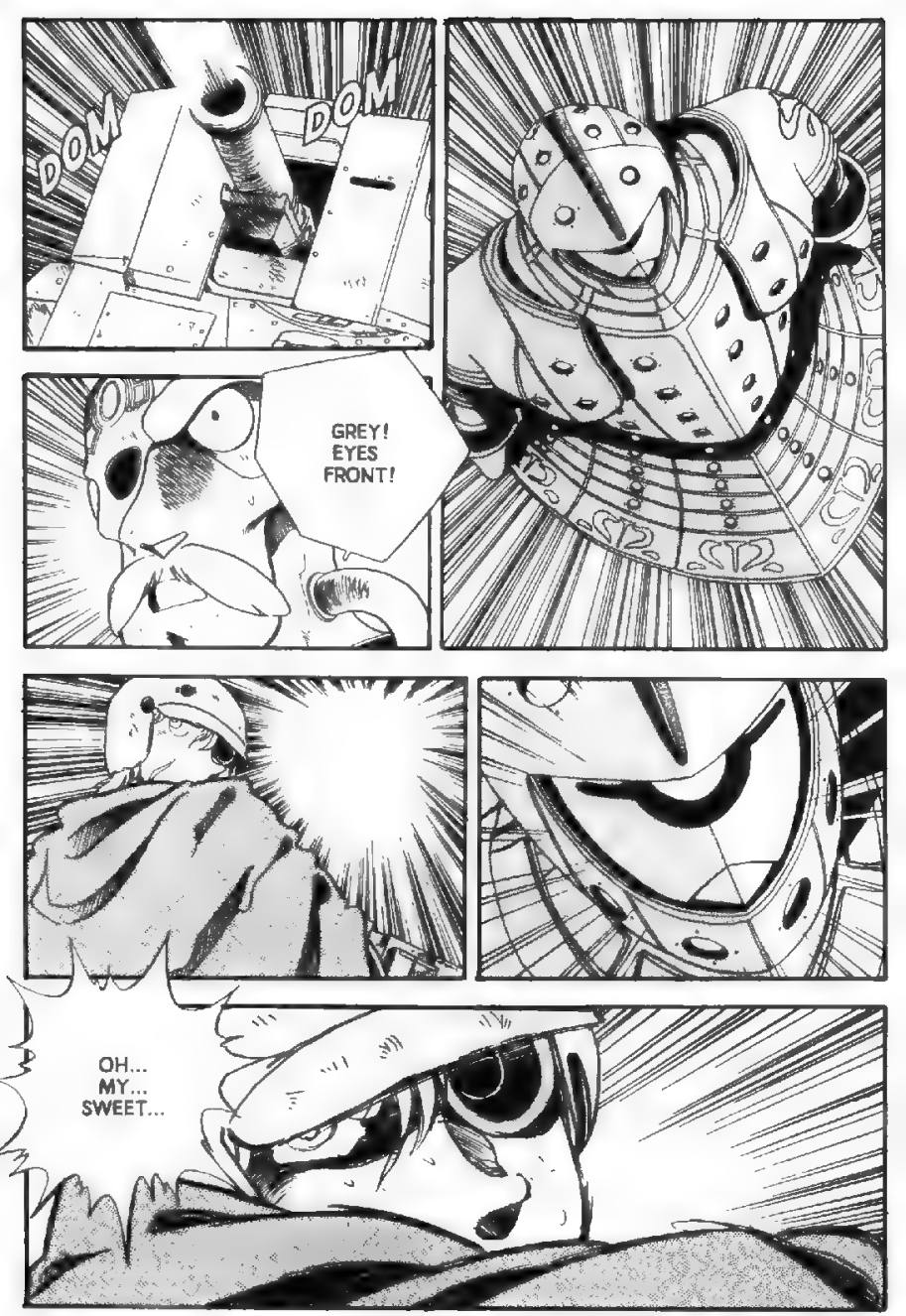
YOU'RE A COLD OLD FART.
BWUMP
THAT'S WHY I HATE HALFLINGS.
DO YOU ACTUALLY KNOW ANY OTHERS?
ONE. NAME'S ROPÉ.
FUNNY THING...
...YOU LOOK A HELL OF A LOT LIKE HIM.
rrm
rrm
rrm
THAT'S NO SURPRISE...
GET DOWN, GREY!
BWOOM
THEY'RE OPENING UP!

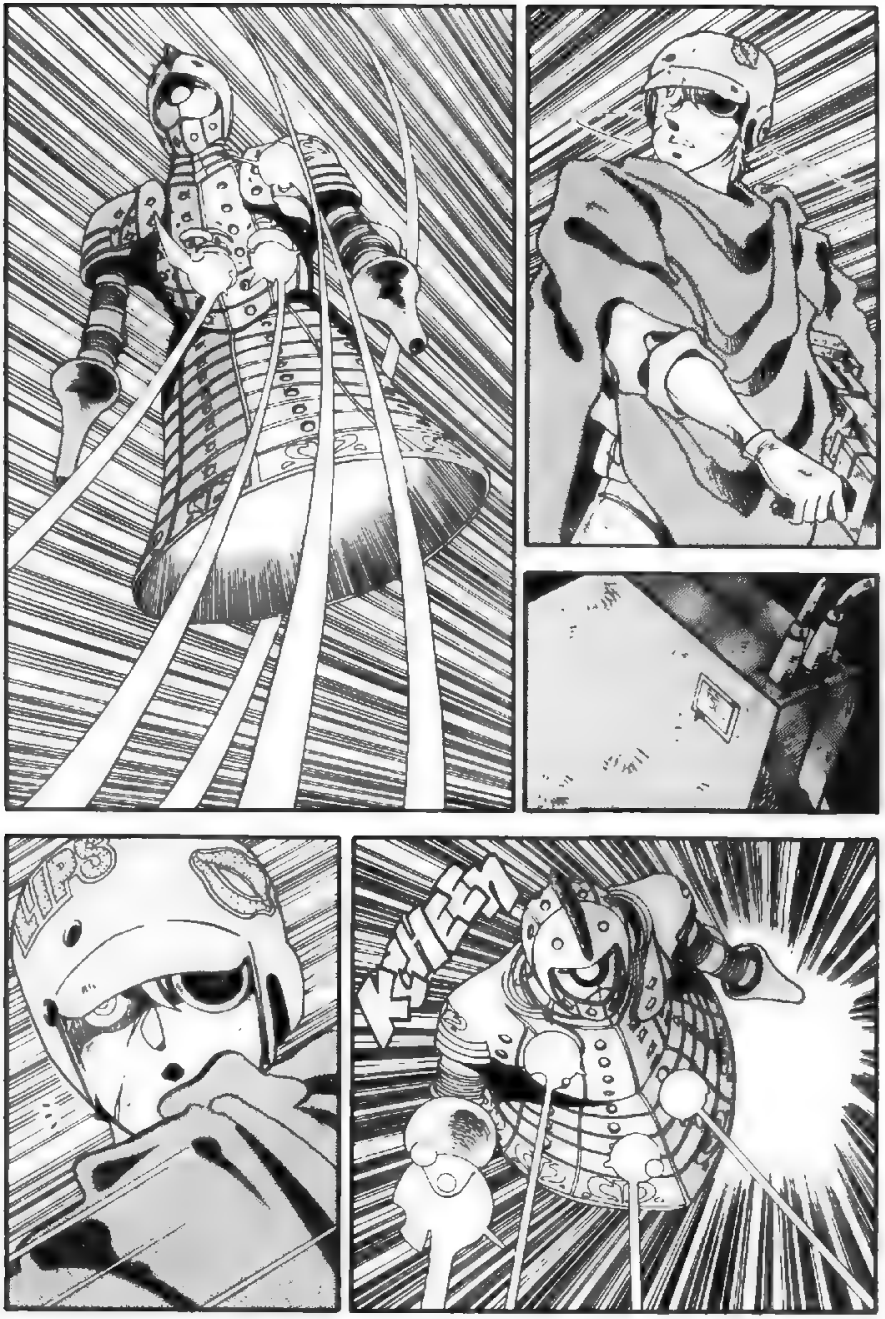
BEEEEN

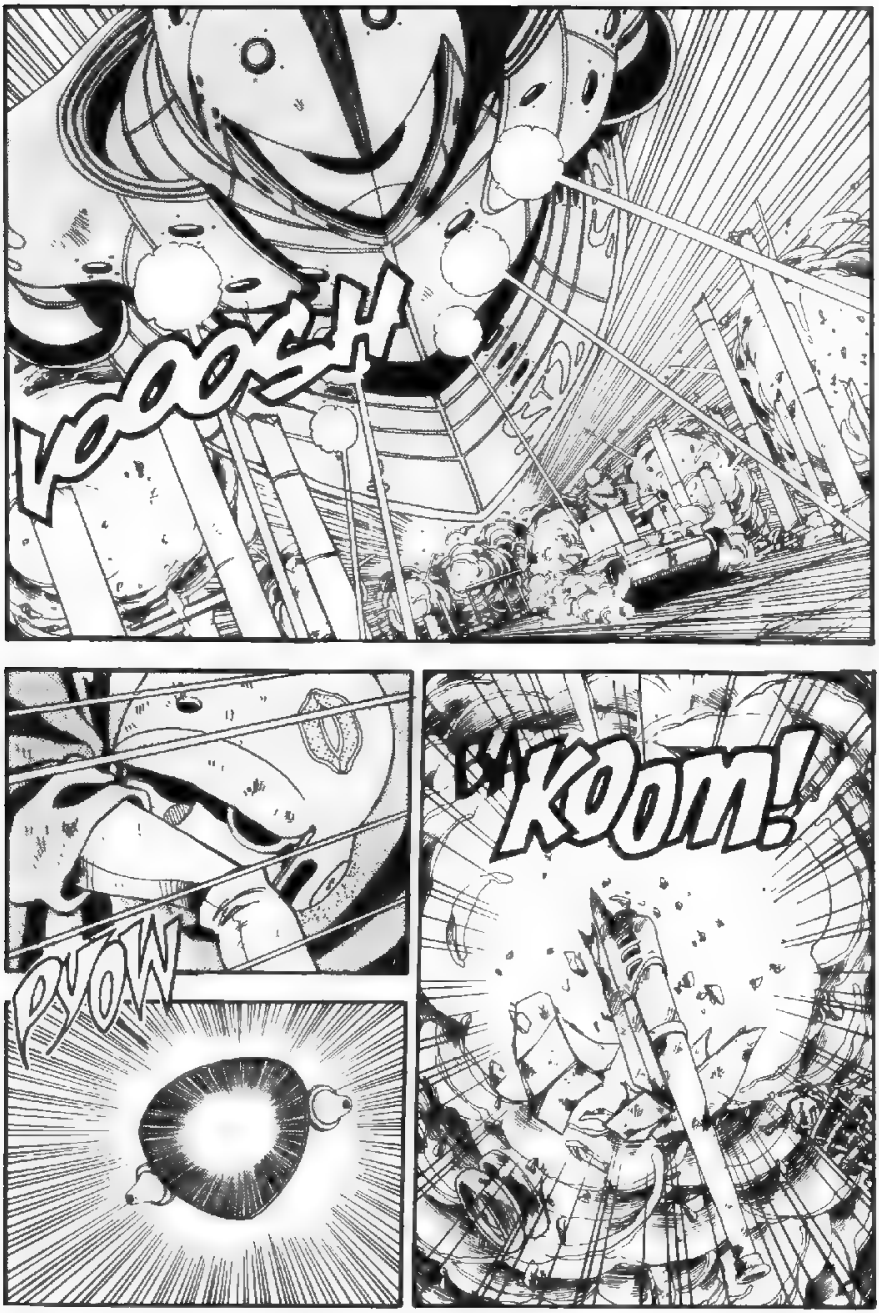

BA
BA
BA
BOOM!

KANG
ALL WE'RE DOING IS WASTING YOUR BATTERY...
VROWRR
IF I CAN'T GET THEIR PATTERN...
GREY! GREY!!
WHONK
snuk
CLIK
LET'S HIT 'EM!!

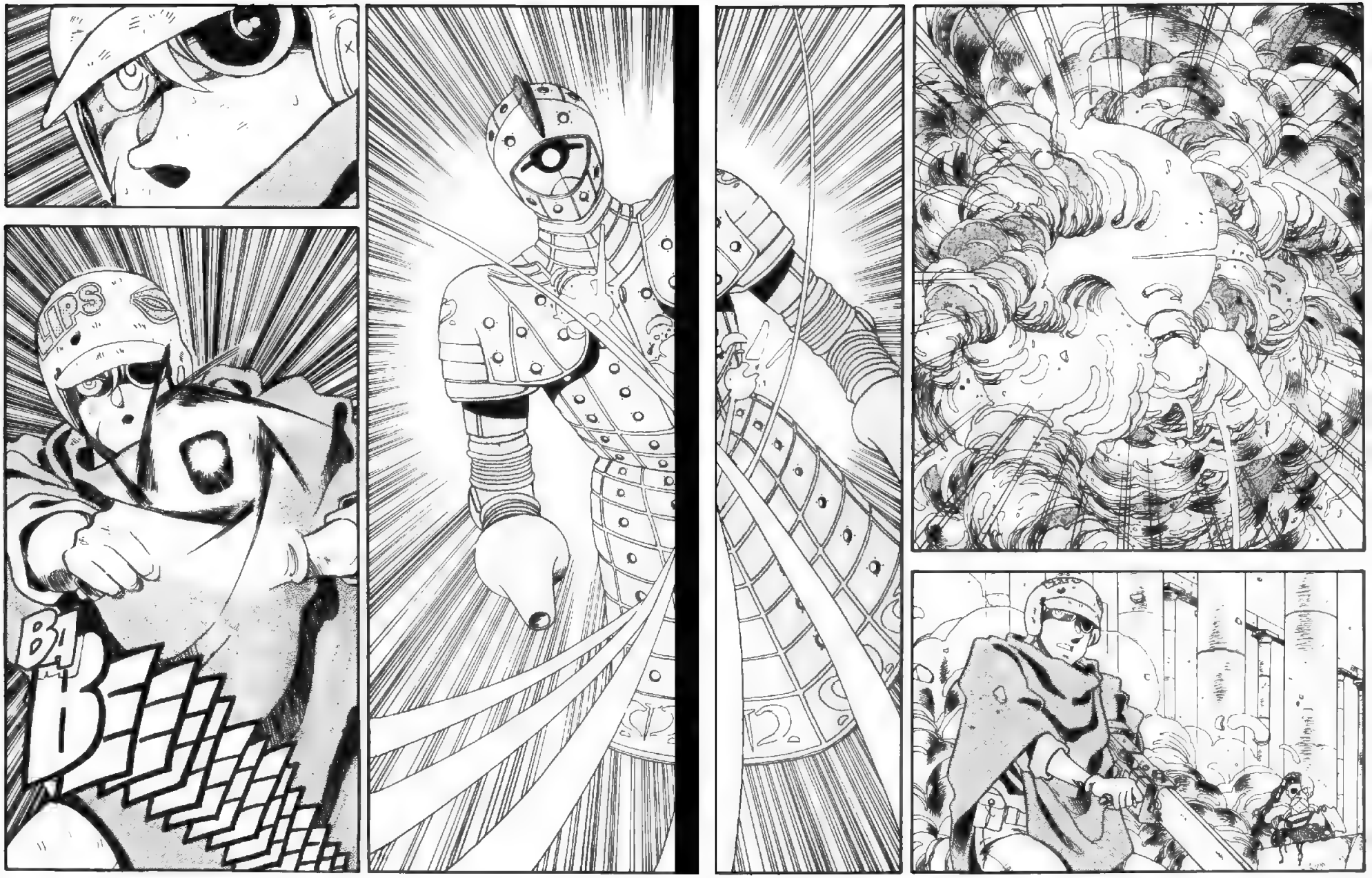
Kcheeeee
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BAM!

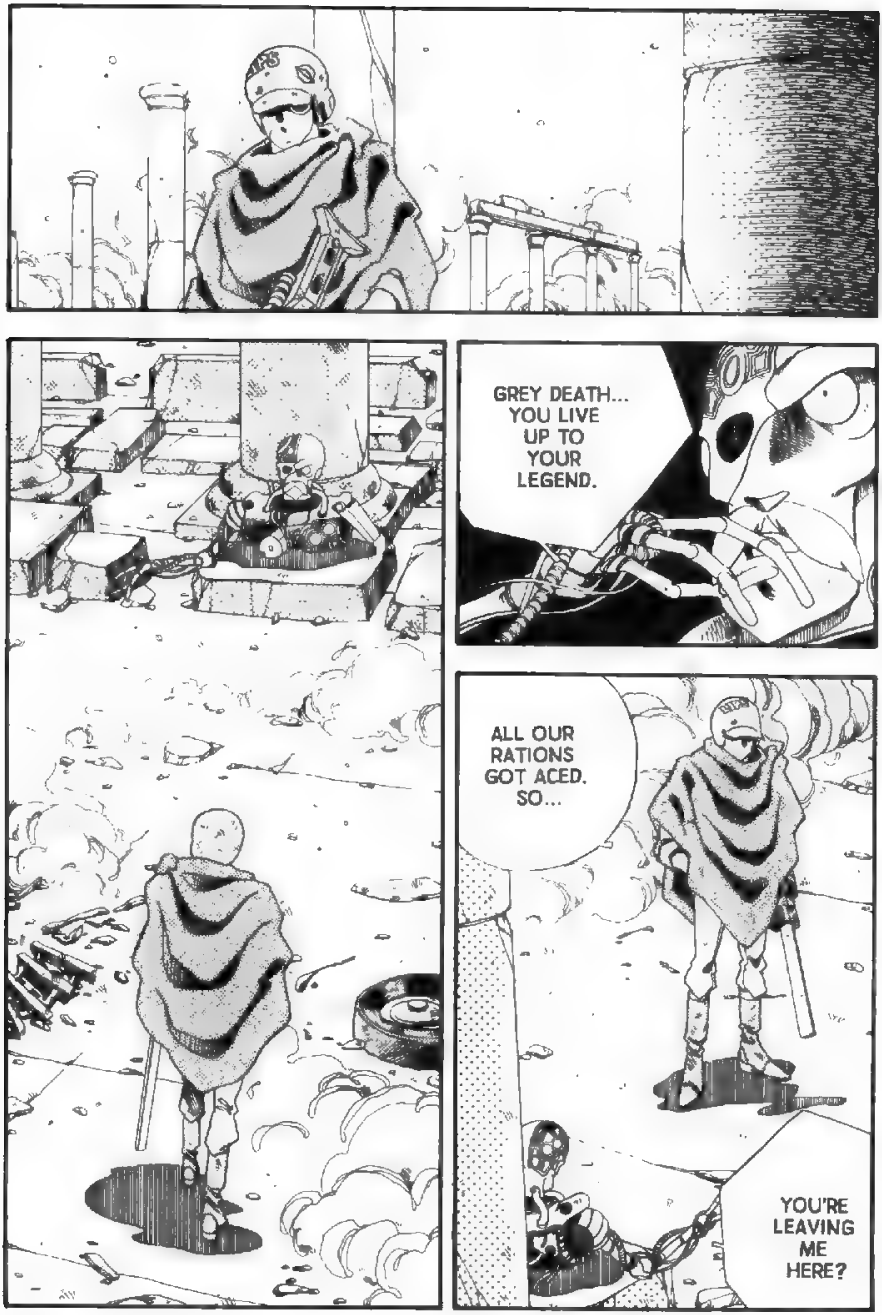

DOM
DOM
GREY!
EYES
FRONT!
OH...
MY...
SWEET...


ドゥルン

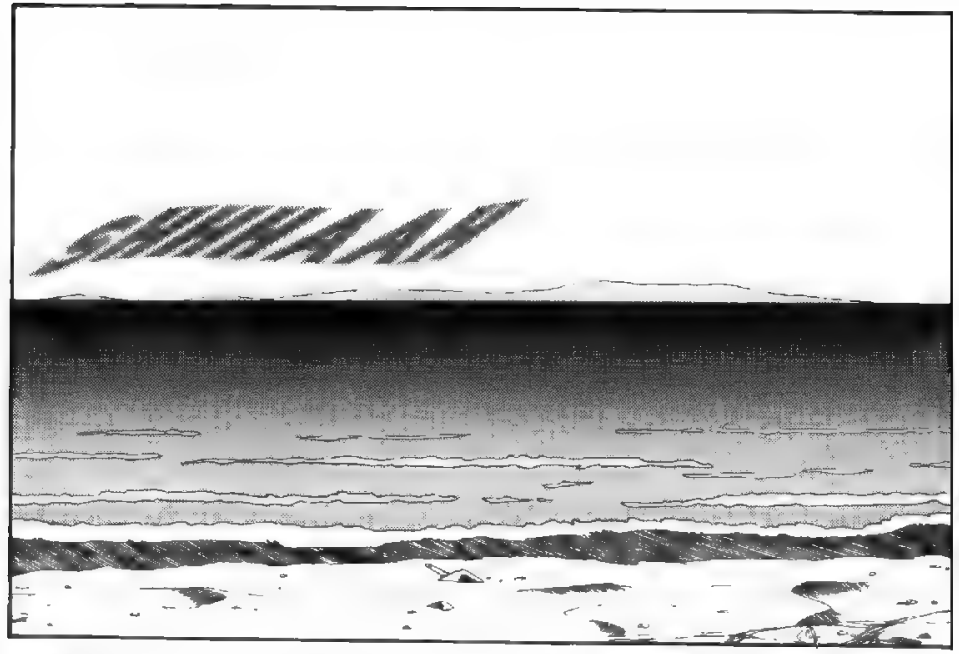

rooosh
PYOW
KOOM!

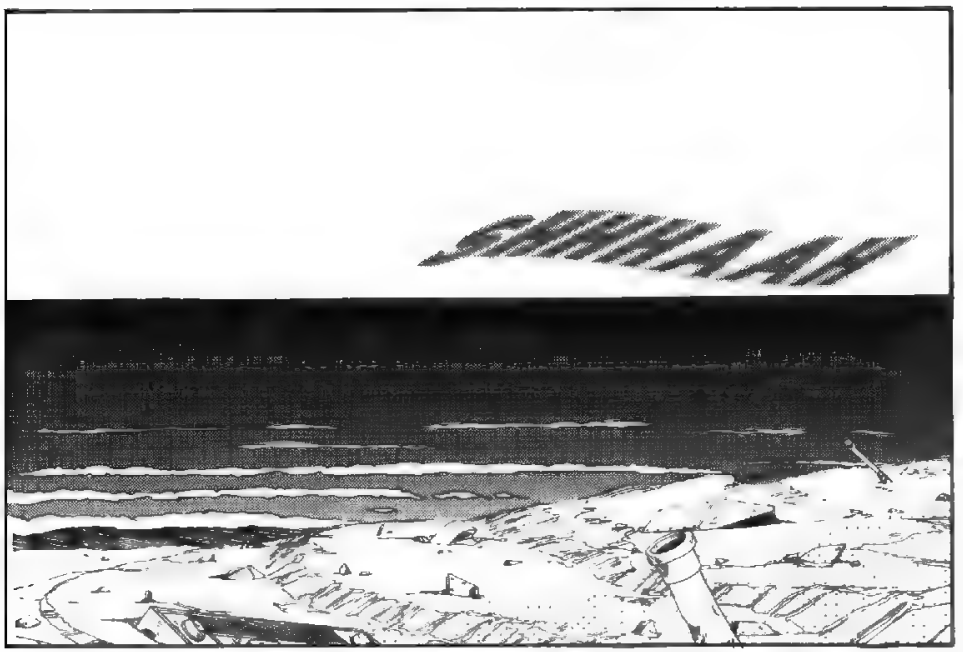
ROBERT! ARE YOU--
YOUR BATTERY'S OUT, GREY!
WHOMP
!!
SH SH SH
IN THE STOCK COMPARTMENT-- YOU'LL FIND TWO COMPACT BATTERY PACKS!
KLAK
IT'S COMING!
BE CONSERVATIVE. IT'LL ONLY POWER TWENTY ROUNDS, FULL-AUTO.
SNOP


BIP
BIP


GREY DEATH... YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR LEGEND.
ALL OUR RATIONS GOT ACED. SO...
YOU'RE LEAVING ME HERE?

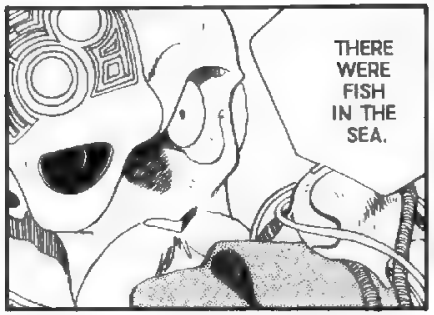
WHAT WOULD I GET FROM LUGGING YOUR MECHANICAL ASS AROUND?
ONLY THE REST OF THE STORY.
SO WHICH WAY DO WE GO?
THERE'S AN OCEAN TO THE EAST.
WITH MY TANK...
...WE CAN TURN SEA WATER TO DRINKING WATER.
FLOP


SHHHAAH


SHHHAAH

SHHHAAH
SHHHAA

YOU SAID... WHEN THE SEA WAS *BLUE*...


THERE WERE FISH IN THE SEA.

WHAT ARE FISH?
SHHHAAH
EVERYTHING... EXTINCT...

THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT COMPUTERS... AND A FEW CHOSEN MEN AND WOMEN TO PROTECT THOSE COMPUTERS.
THE FEW SURVIVING PLANTS WON'T LAST EVEN ANOTHER CENTURY.
AND THOSE CHOSEN MEN AND WOMEN...
...ARE *CITIZENS.*
THESE DAYS, *TOY* IS KNOWN AS *BIG MAMA.*
.....

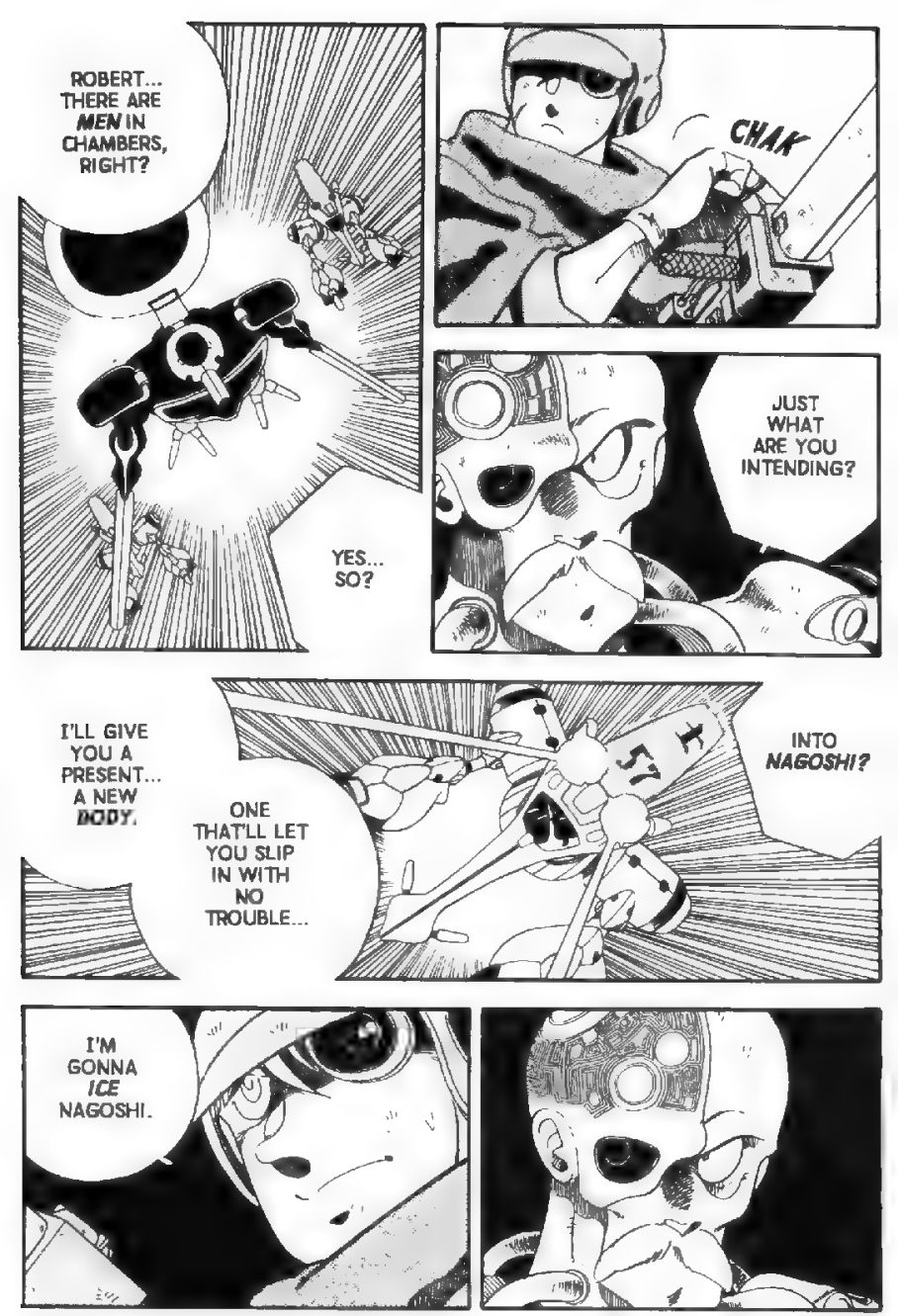
SO *CITIZENS* ARE JUST THERE TO PROTECT THE COMPUTERS...
AND *TOWNS* WERE CREATED JUST TO PRODUCE MORE *CITIZENS.*
SO THE HUMAN POPULATION GREW AGAIN...
...AND WHEN TOWN NUMBERS FINALLY REACHED THREE DIGITS, TOY REALIZED...
... THAT IF THIS CONTINUED, HUMANKIND WOULD FILL THE EARTH AGAIN.
BUT THAT WOULD THWART THE HUMAN WILL...TO BECOME EXTINCT.
SO TOY CREATED THE *CLASS SYSTEM* FOR *"PEOPLE"* WANTING CITIZENSHIP.

THUS THE ENDLESS WAR AMONG TOWNS WAS LAUNCHED.
JUST TO TAKE CARE OF THE COMPUTERS.
FSIT
AND THAT'S ALL *LIPS* DIED FOR?
SHIVA
AND HAWK... CHRIS...LEO... AND CRICKET?
THEY ALL DIED FOR THAT?
THE FIRST *RESISTANCE* GROUP FORMED SOON AFTER.

TROOPERS KILL EACH OTHER...
SHHHAAH
...AND THE RESISTANCE KILLS SURVIVING TROOPERS FOR WEAPONS AND FOOD.
JUST FOR THAT. LEE AND... AND...
TROOPERS, IN TURN, EARN CREDITS FOR KILLING RESISTANCE FIGHTERS.
...AND NOVA. JUST FOR THAT.
CRUNCH
.....

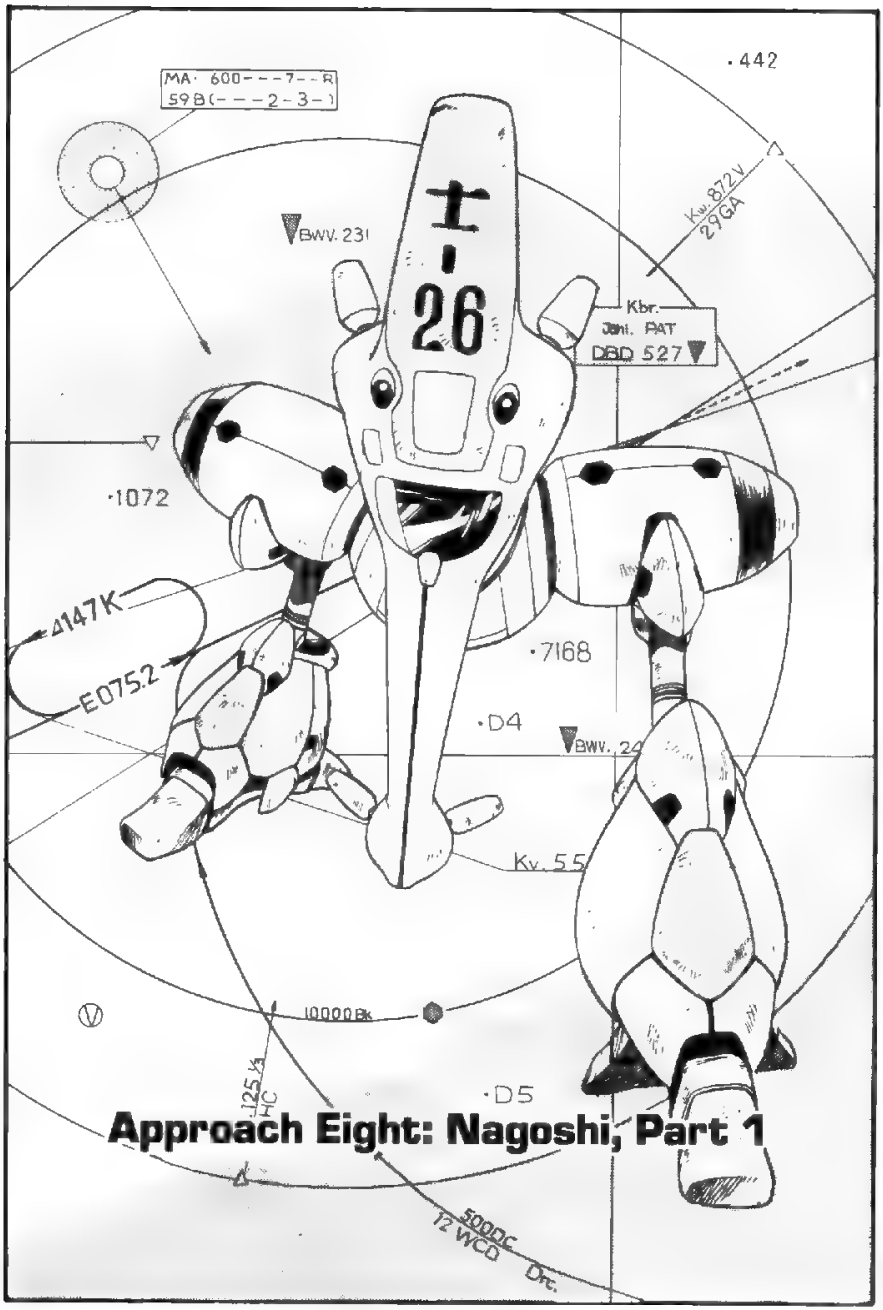
HOW...
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL OF THIS?
WHAT?
BECAUSE I'M OLD...
DON'T HAND ME THAT!
SAVE YOUR ANCIENT GODDAMN TRICKS FOR...
WAIT... SOMETHING IS COMING!
NO! THEY ARE COMING!

KCHK
LEFT... MORE TO THE LEFT!
KWEEEN
THOSE ARE CHAMBERS!
THEY'RE BEING CHASED... BEING CHASED BY...
...KUBANDAS.
NAGOSHI'S KUBANDA'S!


ROBERT... THERE ARE *MEN* IN CHAMBERS, RIGHT?
YES... SO?
CHAK
JUST WHAT ARE YOU INTENDING?
I'LL GIVE YOU A PRESENT... A NEW *BODY.*
ONE THAT'LL LET YOU SLIP IN WITH NO TROUBLE...
INTO *NAGOSHI?*
I'M GONNA *ICE* NAGOSHI.

AND THEN IT'S *TOY'S* TURN.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN RUN AWAY NOW.
GREY, HAVE YOU SEEN...
HAVE YOU SEEN THE *TRUTH?*
WHADDA YOU MEAN?
THAT THE DIRECTOR OF EVERY TOWN...
...*ROPÉ*... IS AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF ME...

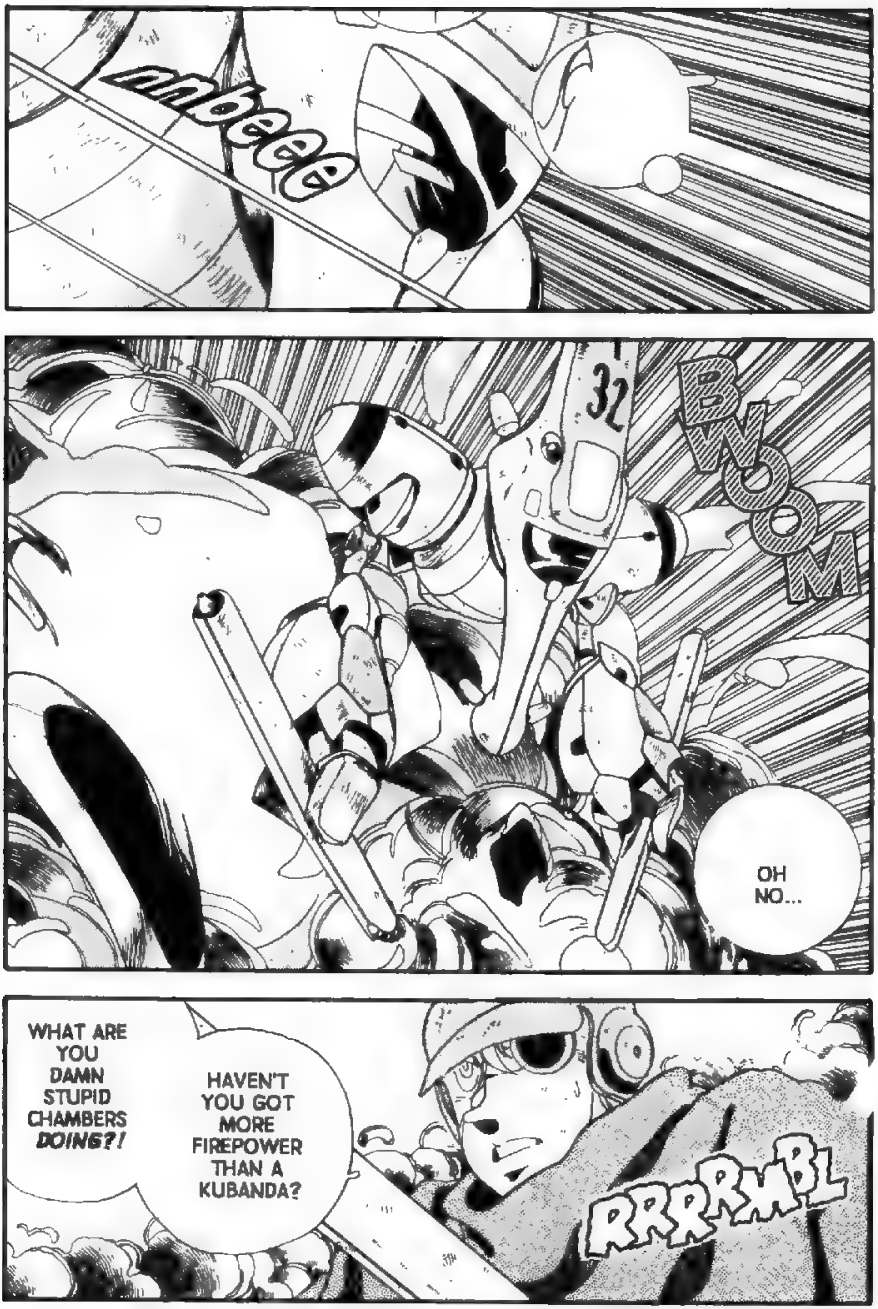
AND THAT I...I AM THE ONE WHO CREATED TOY.
THAT DOESN'T HAVE SHIT TO DO WITH ME.
DO YOU THINK I CARE?
I'M GOING...
...OLD BOY.




# Approach Eight: Nagoshi, Part 1

BYON
32
GOOD, GOOD...
BOOM
WELL DONE.

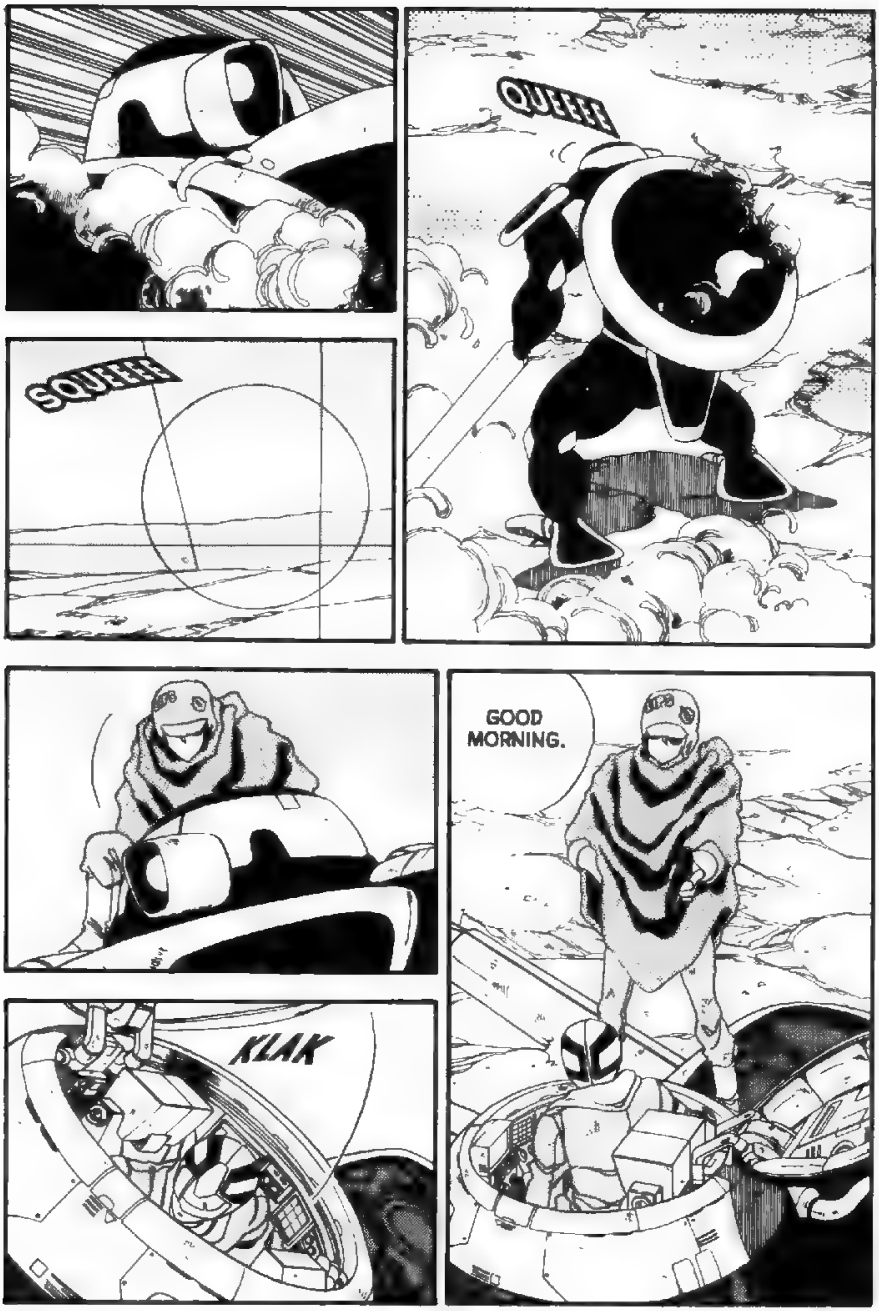
OKAY... DODGE THOSE SHOTS.
BA BEN
32
SHA
SHA
DON'T FIRE, FOOL!
BOW!
LIE DOWN!
VOOSH
NO! IDIOT!
KLONK


anbeee
32
BWOOM
OH NO...
WHAT ARE YOU DAMN STUPID CHAMBERS DOING?!
HAVEN'T YOU GOT MORE FIREPOWER THAN A KUBANDA?
RRRRUBL

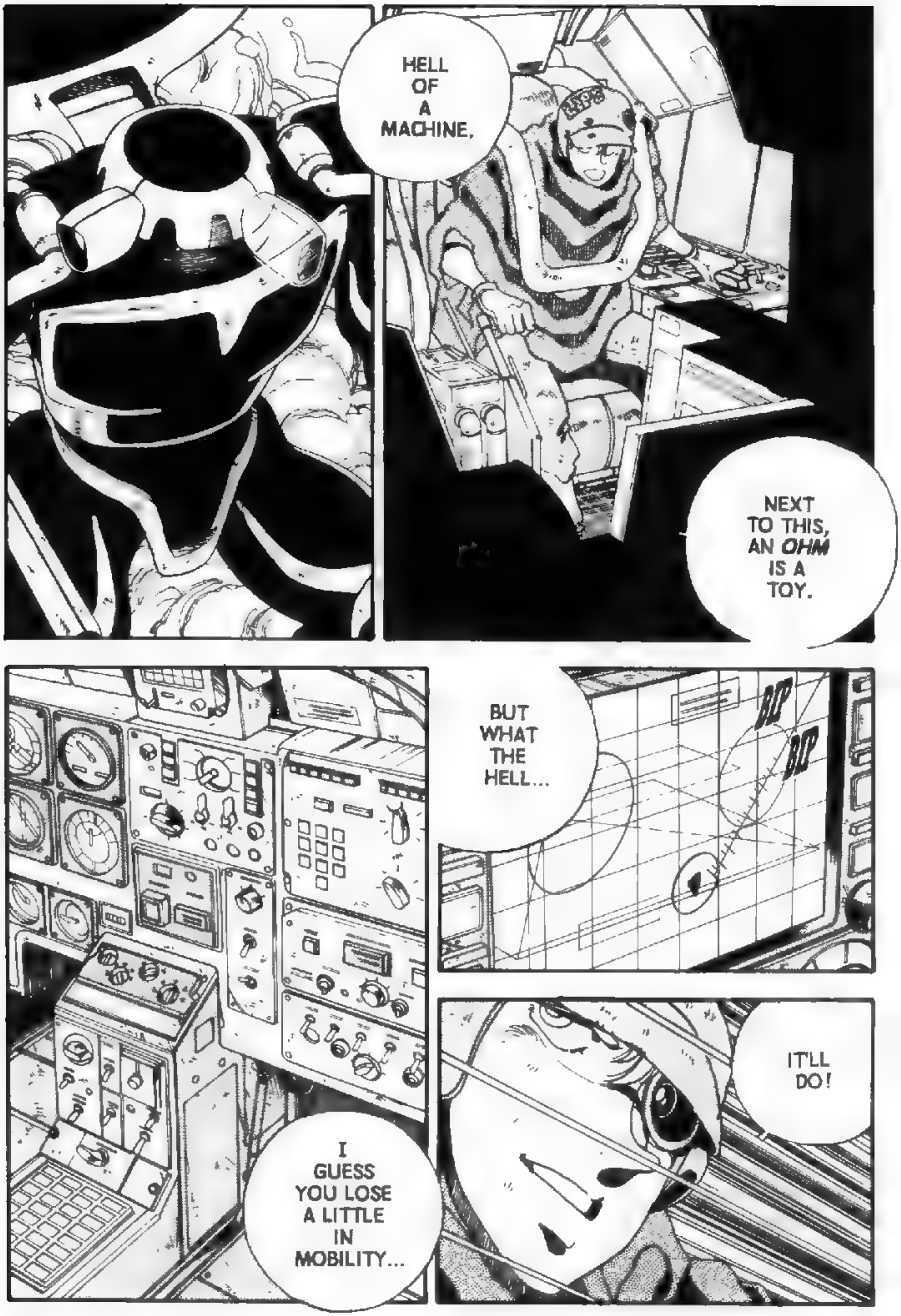
BOOM
WHOA!!
BLINNN
ARE THEY REALLY THAT STUPID?
STUPID ENOUGH TO WASTE TIME ATTACKING *ONE* MAN... ON THE GROUND?!
THIS IS PISSING ME OFF.

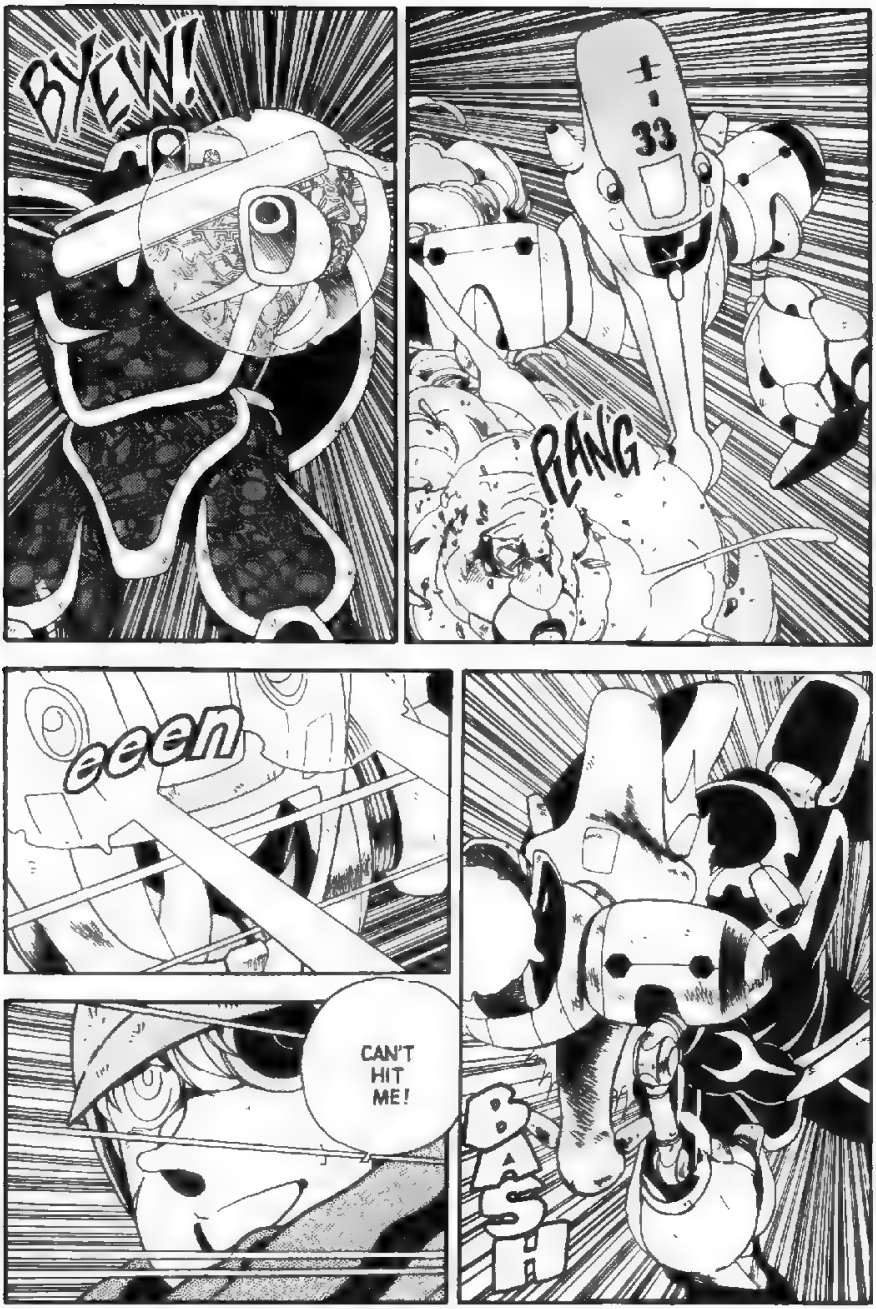
BLAM
DAMN I'M GOOD.
SHA SHA SHA SHA
DIK
BA BEN
DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER, FOOL...
BOM BOOM
YOU'RE NOT GUARDING YOUR BACK!

SHOOM
BYON
SEE? THEY'RE COMING.
PACHEEE
TOO SLOW!
BAM
OOOM

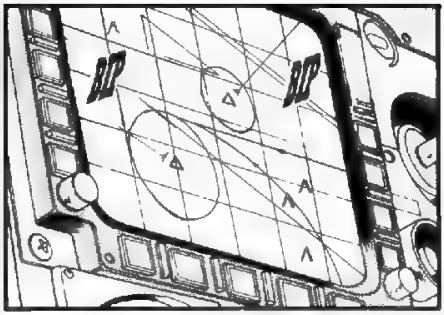

QUEEE
SQUEEE
GOOD MORNING.
KLAK

JOINING THE RESISTANCE ISN'T SO BAD.
EVEN IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING AND MAKE CLASS A...
DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED...
UGH!
THUD
ALL YOU'RE DOING IS PROTECTING COMPUTERS.
ZHU ZHU ZHU ZHU ZHU

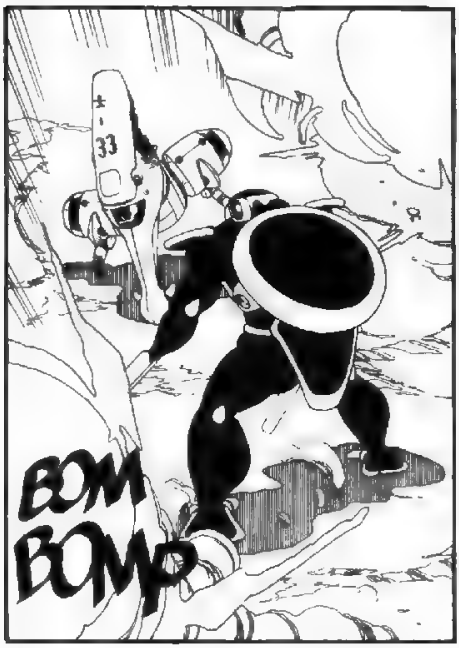

HELL OF A MACHINE.
NEXT TO THIS, AN *OHM* IS A TOY.
I GUESS YOU LOSE A LITTLE IN MOBILITY...
BUT WHAT THE HELL...
BIP
BIP
IT'LL DO!


BYEW!
33
PLANG
eeen
CAN'T HIT ME!
BASH

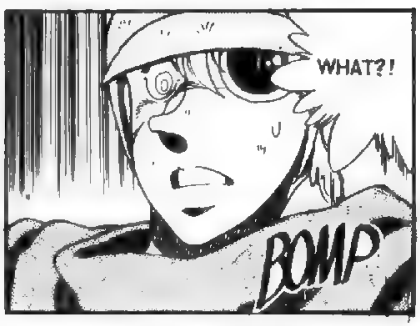
KLO NG


BIP
BIP

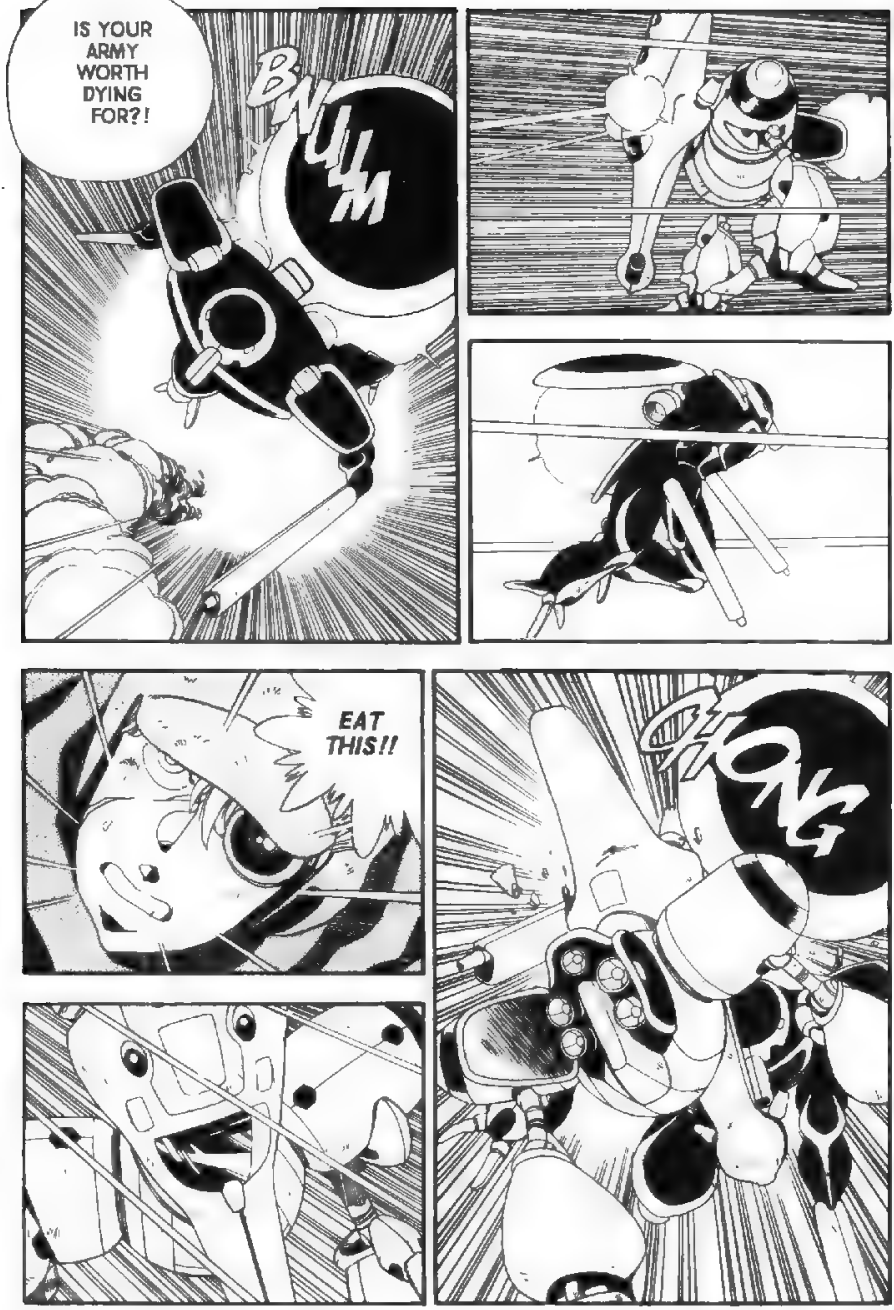
UH-HUH. CALLED MORE KUBANDAS.


33
BOM BOMP

VROOM

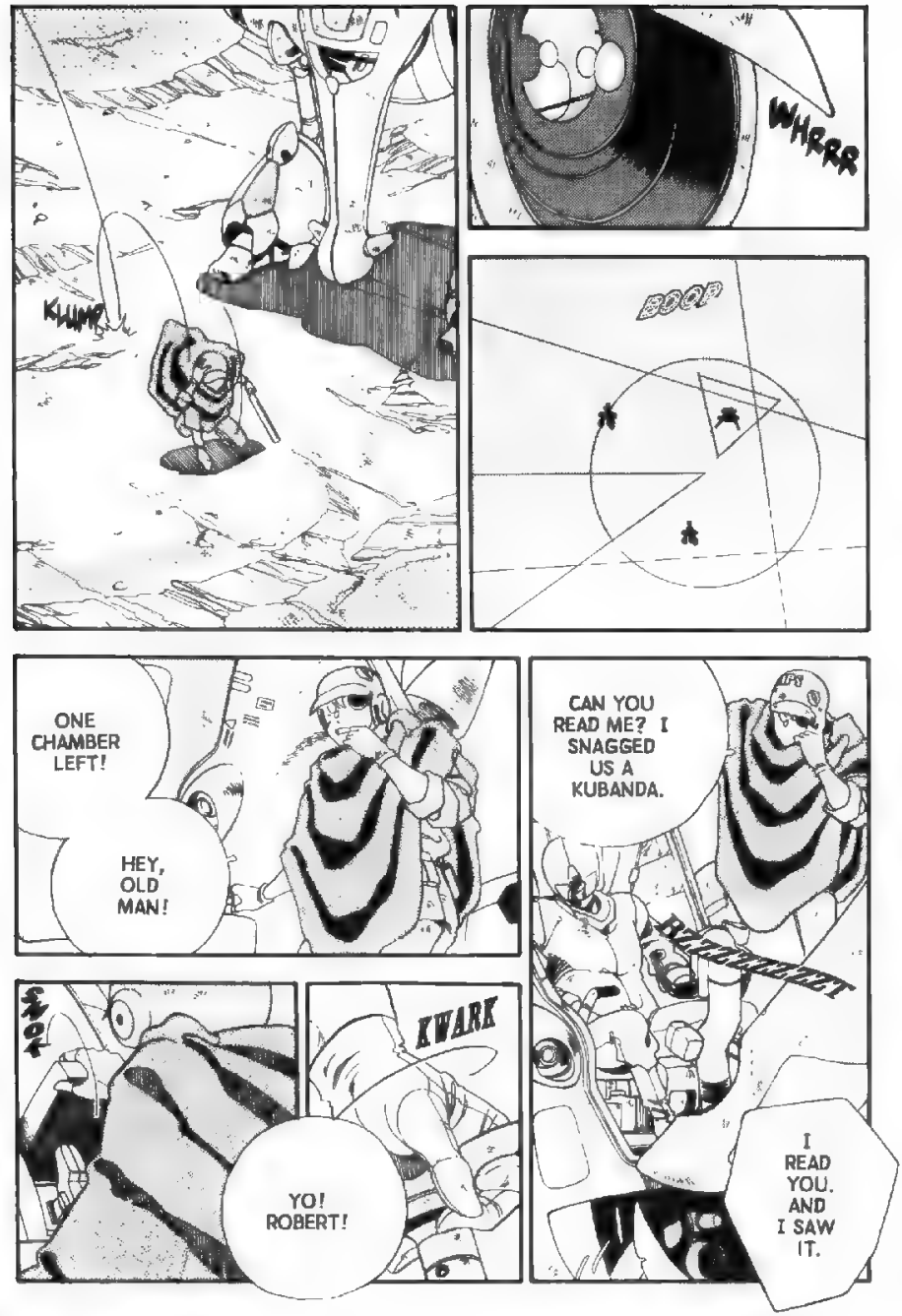

WHAT?!
BOMP

SON OF A BITCH!!
SKRAK
beeen
VIP
DON'T GET COCKY!
bweee
WHAT A CHUMP...


IS YOUR ARMY WORTH DYING FOR?!
BWUMM
EAT THIS!!
CLONG

FOOM
+-32
GOT 'IM!!
byeeeh

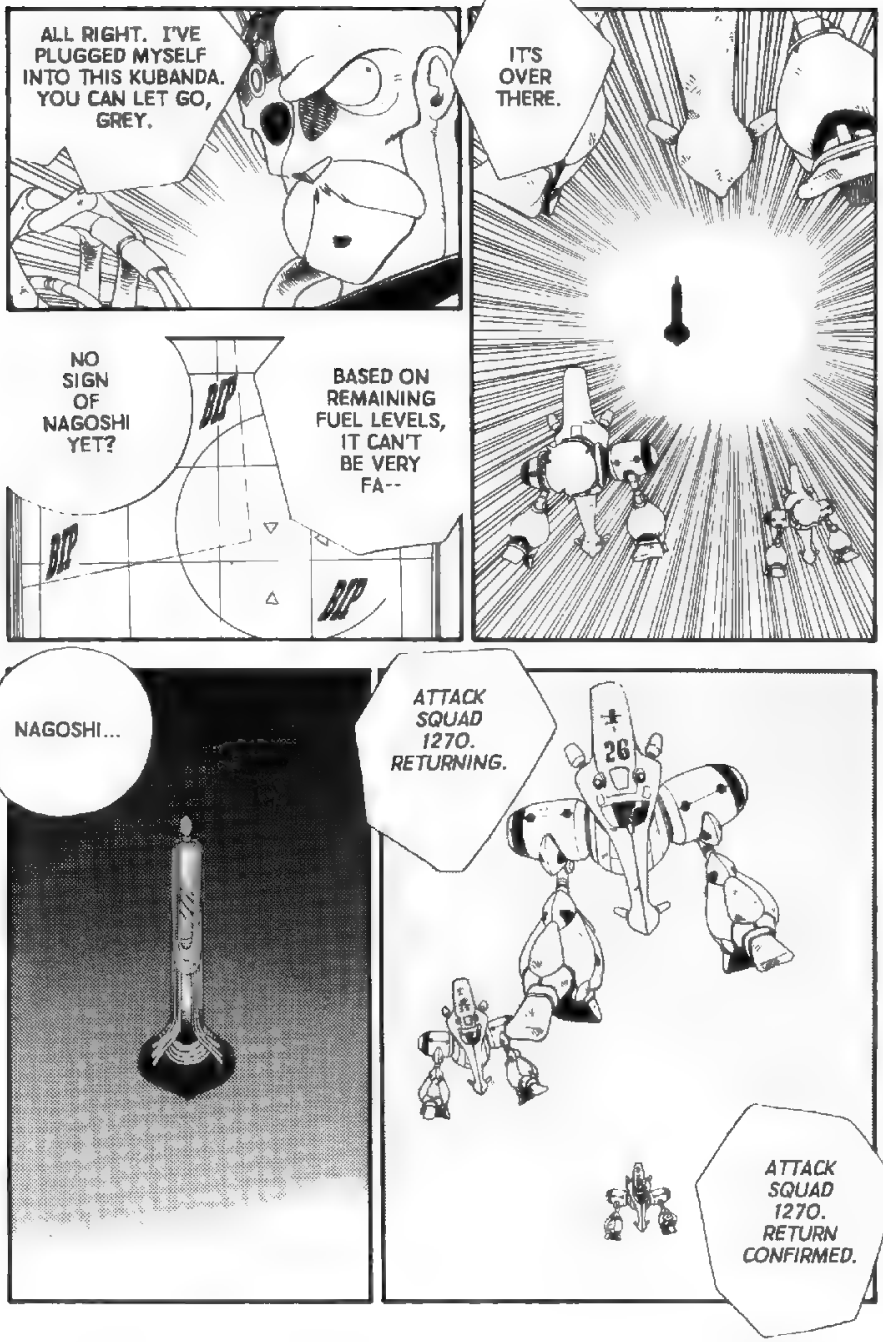
ZAZAM!
32
PLEW!

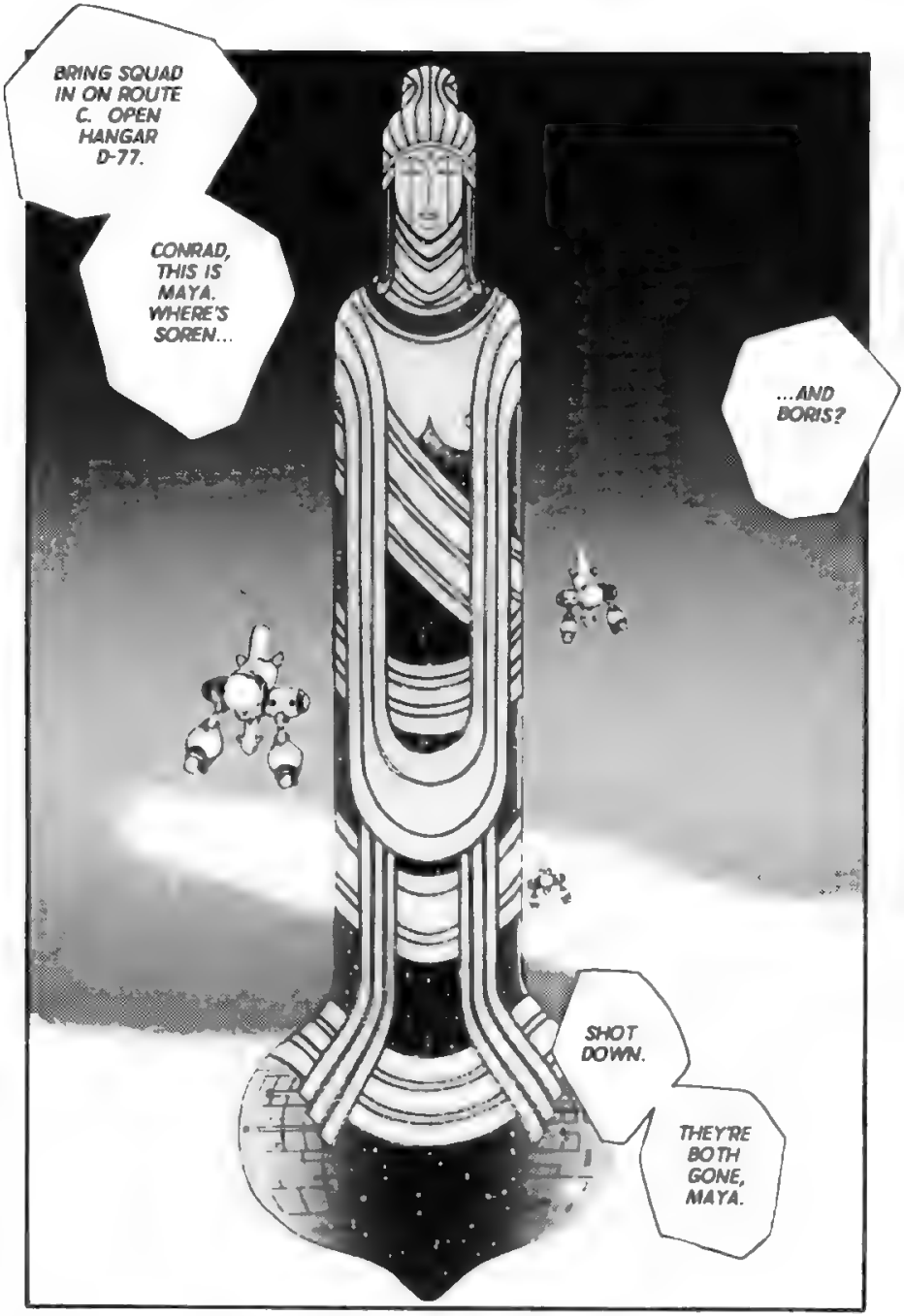

KLUMP
WHRRR
BOOP
ONE CHAMBER LEFT!
HEY, OLD MAN!
CAN YOU READ ME? I SNAGGED US A KUBANDA.
I READ YOU. AND I SAW IT.
SHOT
KWARK
YO! ROBERT!

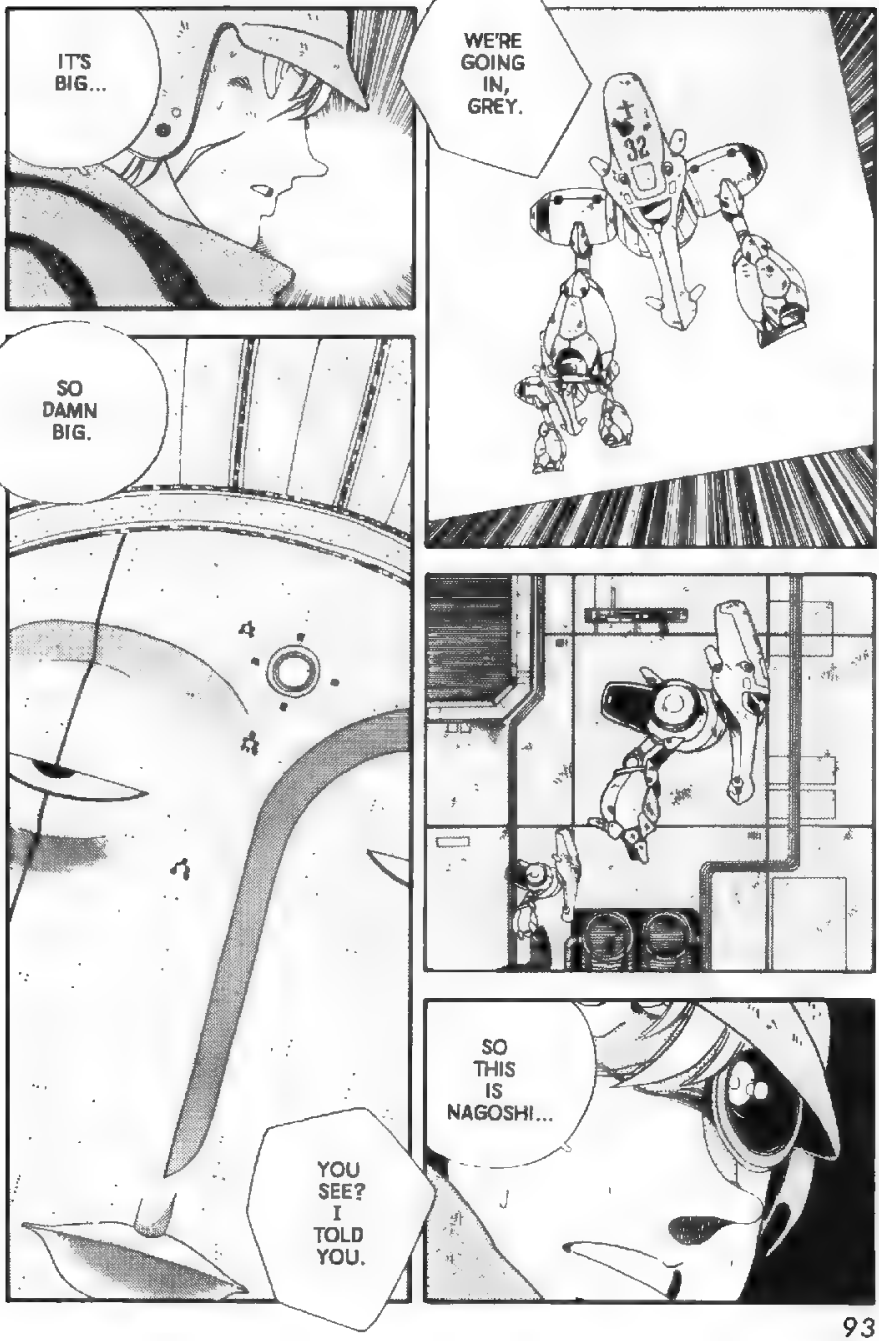
THEY'LL PULL BACK TO THEIR BASE WHEN THEY ACE THE LAST CHAMBER.
YWOM
YWOM
VERTICAL SPEED
DON'T ASK FOOLISH QUESTIONS.
POWRR
32
OKAY.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
VOM VOM
RRRRRRRRRRR
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA

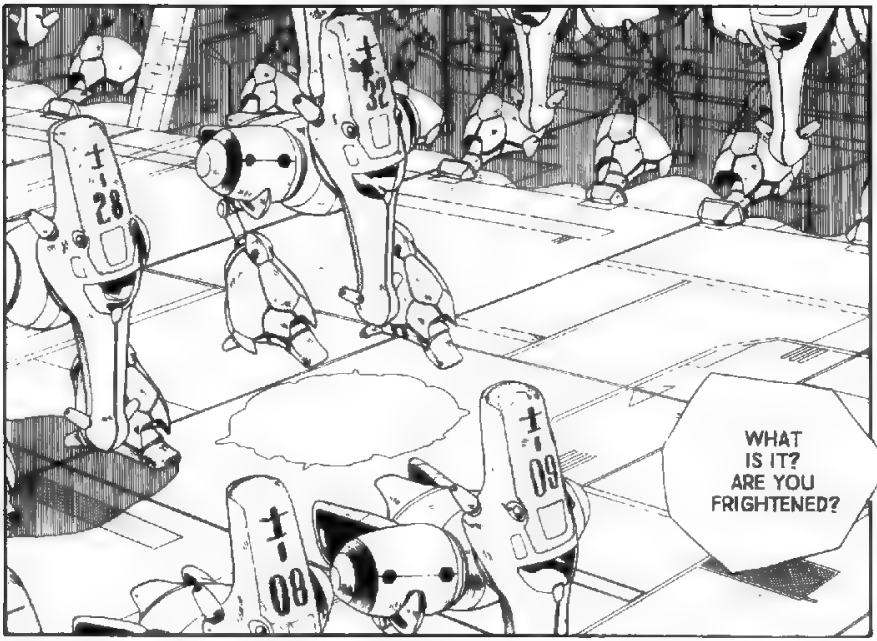
BUT TELL ME...
...HOW WILL YOU DESTROY NAGOSHI?
FUMP
YOU CAN'T DO VERY MUCH WITH JUST ONE KUBANDA.
'ZAT RIGHT?
HARVEY... COME IN...
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU OKAY?
HARVEY! COME IN!
RADIO TROUBLE, HARVEY? WE'RE GOING BACK.
32
WOOOOOOOOM
WOULDN'T HE HAVE ANSWERED BY NOW... IF HE COULD?

COME IN, HARVEY!
26
THERE'S A HOLE IN YOUR COCKPIT SHIELD.
CONRAD... SOREN AND BORIS GOT TAKEN DOWN.
MAPLE... YOUR ALTITUDE IS TOO LOW.
I'VE LOST SOME ENGINE POWER.
BUT I'LL MAKE IT BACK TO BASE.
SAY, HARVEY... WHERE'D YOU DISAPPEAR TO BACK THERE?
I THINK HIS RADIO'S OUT.
26
SCARY, HUH?

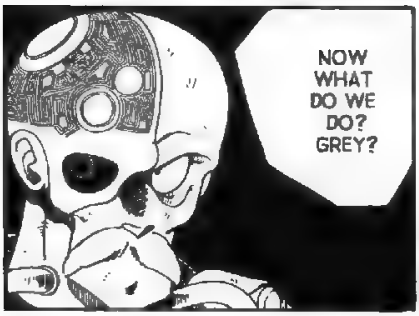

ALL RIGHT. I'VE PLUGGED MYSELF INTO THIS KUBANDA. YOU CAN LET GO, GREY.
IT'S OVER THERE.
NO SIGN OF NAGOSHI YET?
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BASED ON REMAINING FUEL LEVELS, IT CAN'T BE VERY FA--
NAGOSHI...
ATTACK SQUAD 1270. RETURNING.
26
ATTACK SQUAD 1270. RETURN CONFIRMED.

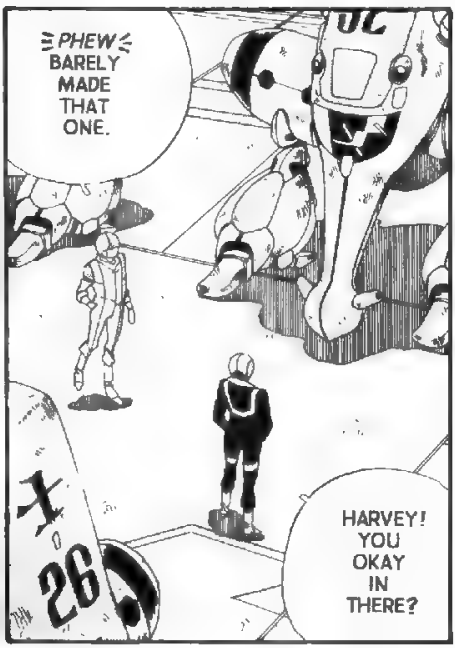

BRING SQUAD IN ON ROUTE C. OPEN HANGAR D-77.
CONRAD, THIS IS MAYA. WHERE'S SOREN...
...AND BORIS?
SHOT DOWN.
THEY'RE BOTH GONE, MAYA.


IT'S BIG...
WE'RE GOING IN, GREY.
32
SO DAMN BIG.
SO THIS IS NAGOSHI...
YOU SEE? I TOLD YOU.


28
32
09
08
WHAT IS IT? ARE YOU FRIGHTENED?

NOT... TOO MUCH.


NOW WHAT DO WE DO? GREY?


PHEW BARELY MADE THAT ONE.
26
HARVEY! YOU OKAY IN THERE?

.....
MAYA, I...
HARVEY? WHAT--?
CONRAD?
WHAT HAPPENED TO SOREN?
BNNNNN
MAYA...
I WAS WITH HIM, BUT...I COULDN'T SAVE HIM.
TUMP

SWISH
ROBERT...YOU PICKING ME UP? WHEN THE MECHANICS COME, I WANT YOU TO LET LOOSE!
WHAT AM I ? A DECOY?
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
I SEE. WELL...GOOD LUCK TO YOU.
GOOD LUCK, OLD BOY.
TOMP
?
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP

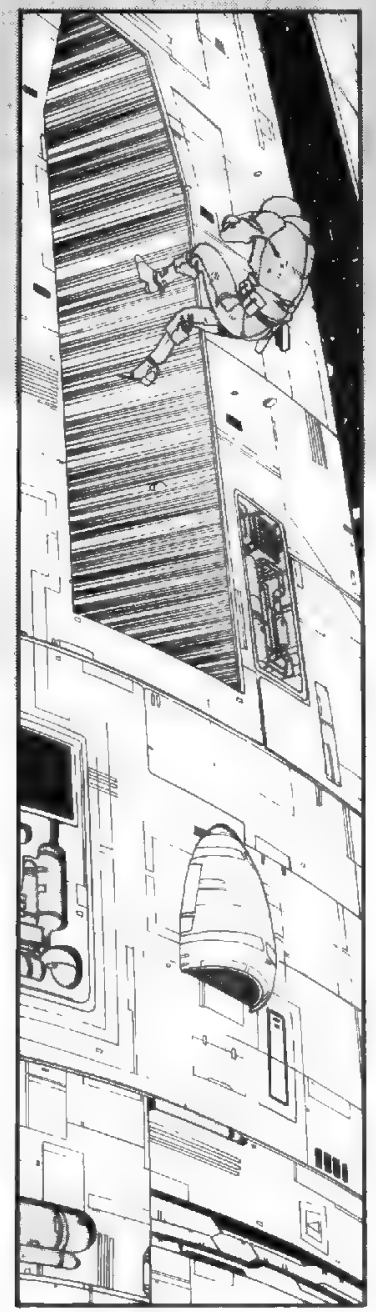
HARVEY, WHAT--
WHO ARE YOU?!
GREY, THEY'VE FOUND ME!
DAMN IT!
TOMP
ZAM!

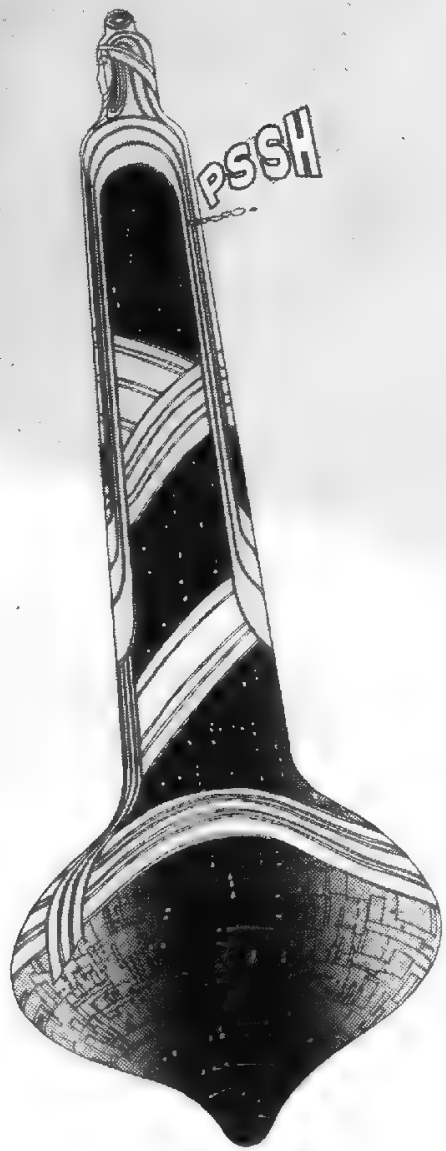
WHAT--?
UNGH!
VISH
DIE!!
BAM BAM BAM
VIZZ
VIZZ
SHIT.

YOU A DOLL?
ZAH
TRY A BEAM CANNON!
bweee
BOMP
SHUUUU
WITH ARMOR...
MMMMMMMM
SO YOU WERE HUMAN.
rrm rrm rrm

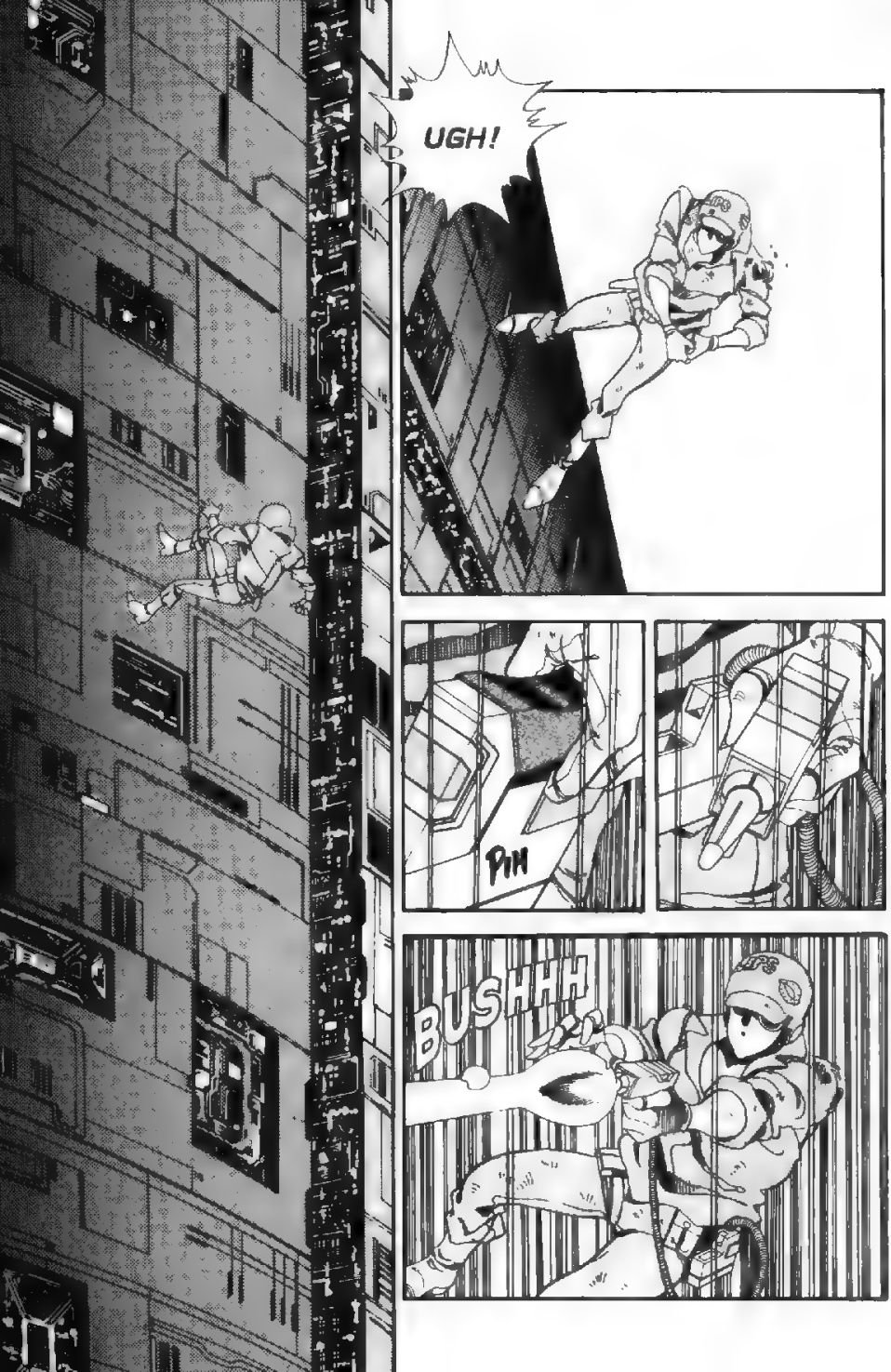
ROOM!
FUMP
WHFF
GREY...
YEAH, ROBERT.
IT'S NO GO, GREY.
NAGOSHI IS...
WHAT IS IT, ROBERT?
WHERE ARE YOU?
NAGOSHI... CITY...
WHAT HAPPENED?
SH... SHU...

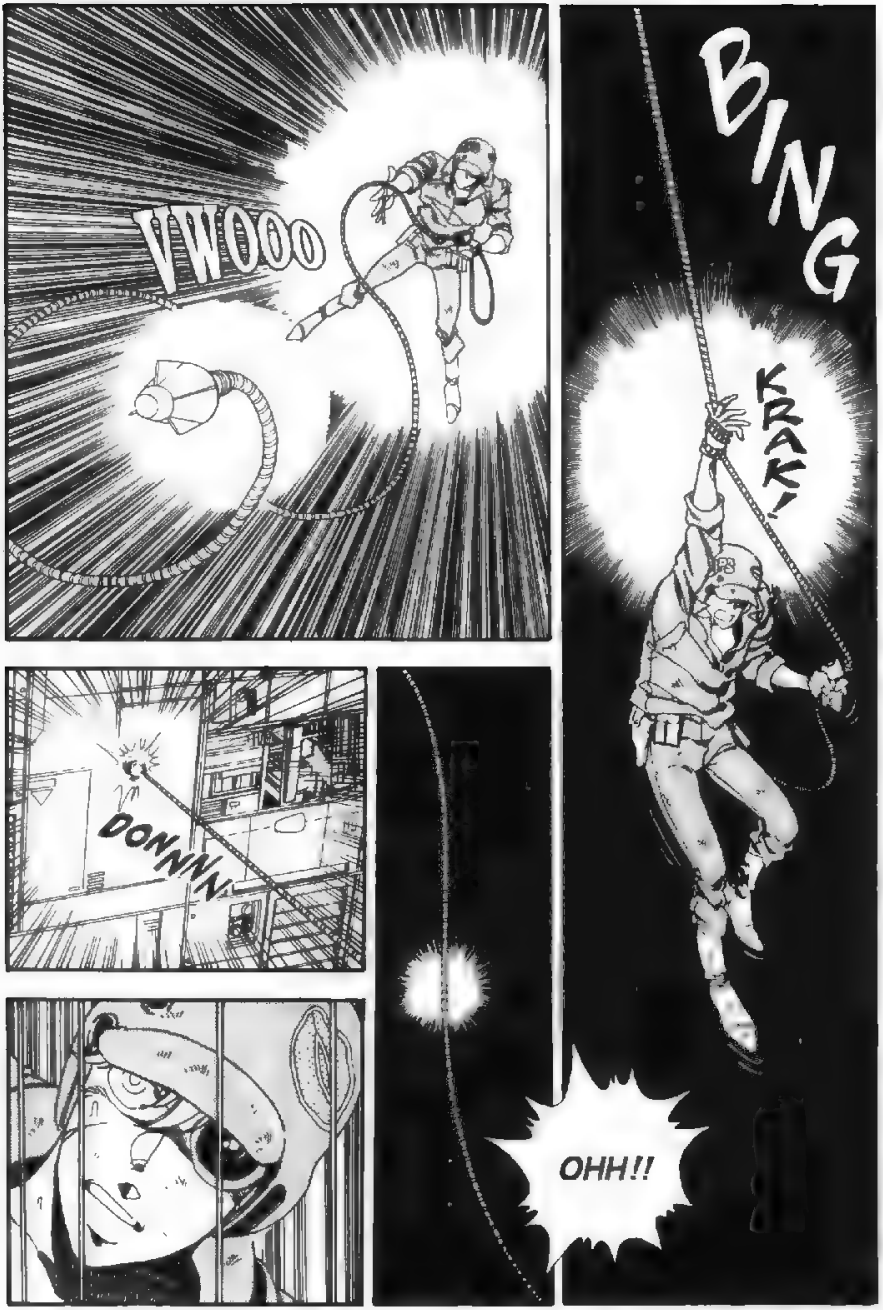
ROBERT!
KA.
WHOA!
BABOOM
BRRRRR

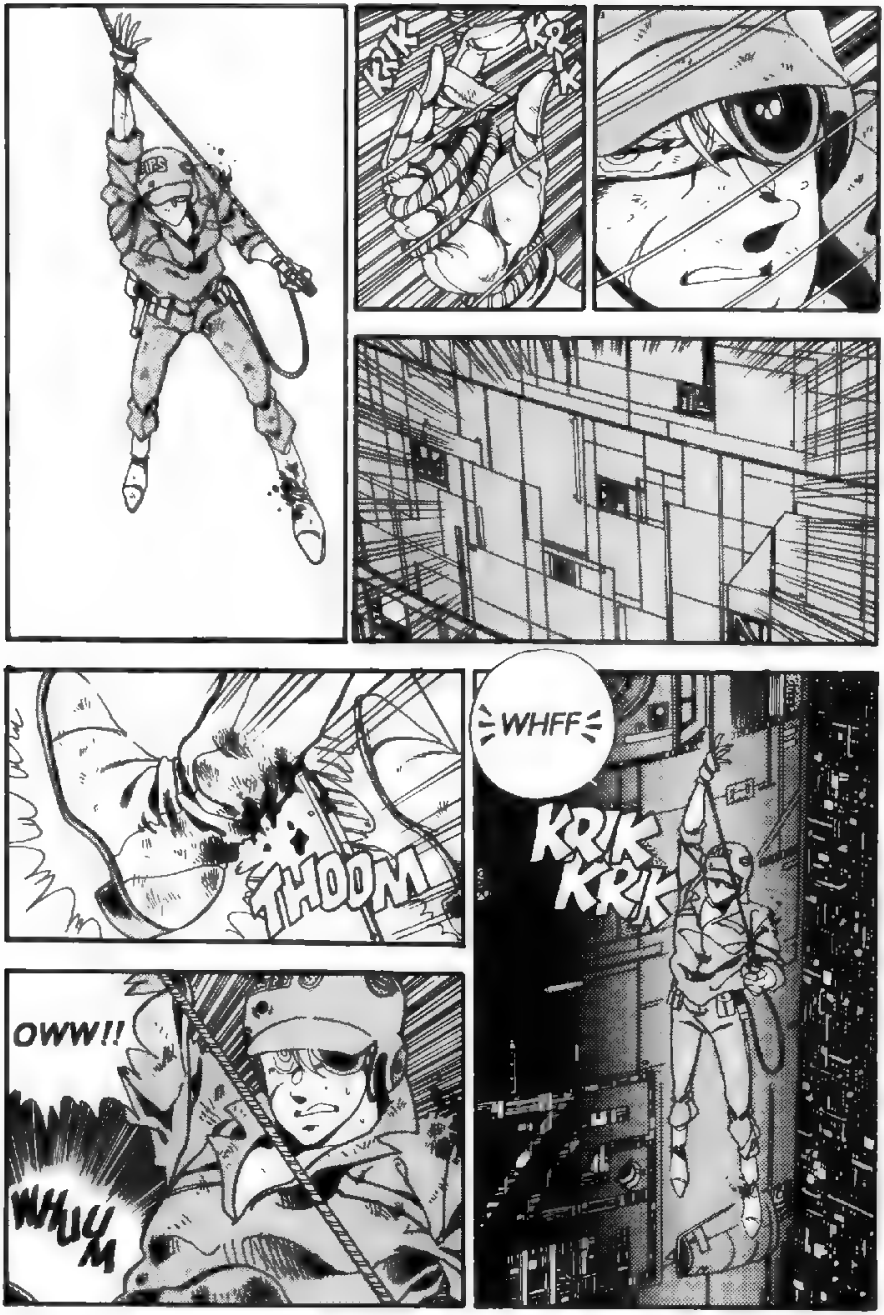


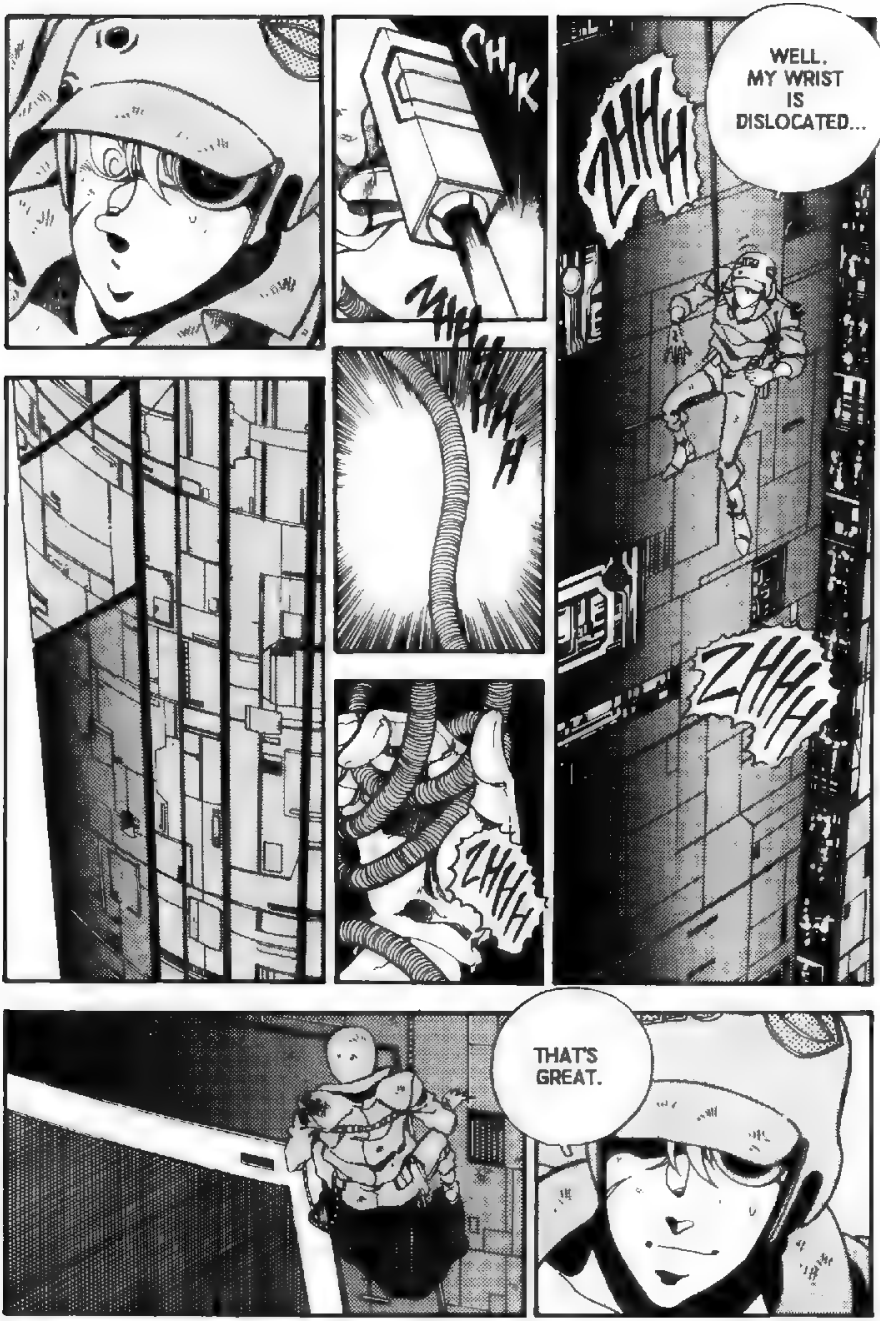

PSSH

# Approach Eight: Nagoshi, Part 2


UGH!
PIH
BUSHHH


VWOOO
BING
KRAK!
DONNN
OHH!!


KRIK
KRIK
THOOM
WHFF
KRIK
KRIK
OWW!!
WHUUM


CHIK
ZHHHHHH
WELL. MY WRIST IS DISLOCATED...
ZHH
ZHHH
ZHHH
THAT'S GREAT.

GHAA!
WUNK
UNGH!
MY BODY IS WOUNDED AND BATTERED...
IT'S THE MOST DESPERATE HOUR OF MY BATTLE...
QUESTION IS...HOW FAR DID I DROP?
YO, ROBERT!
OH, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR HERO NOW?

DAMN!
TOMP
TOMP
beeee
beeee
WOOPS.
NOW WHAT--?
SHAA!

HYAHH!!
VOOM
LIPS
byng
PEE
NOT EVEN CLOSE!
BAM

HUHH!!
WHUMP
WAP
BYNG
BLAP!

PYEWWW
HUH?!
GRAK!
?!
ASSHOLE!
OH...
BYING

BYING
SPAP

WUMP
BNOOM
SHIT!
TOO... DAMN... PERSIST...
SQUEEK
UH OH.

WELL, NOW HERE'S A CONVENIENT SURPRISE.
BIP
PEEEEE
PEEEEE
!!
NOW, CAN IT REALLY BE...
KSSH
...THAT THIS SWITCH...

GWOOSH
YEAH. IT CAN.
!!
BYING

PSHH
TOO BAD THEY DON'T MAKE BEAM-CANNONS FOR USE IN THE SHOWER.
WOOSH
PING
42
43
GOOD TIMING.
SHHHHHHHH
ZIP!

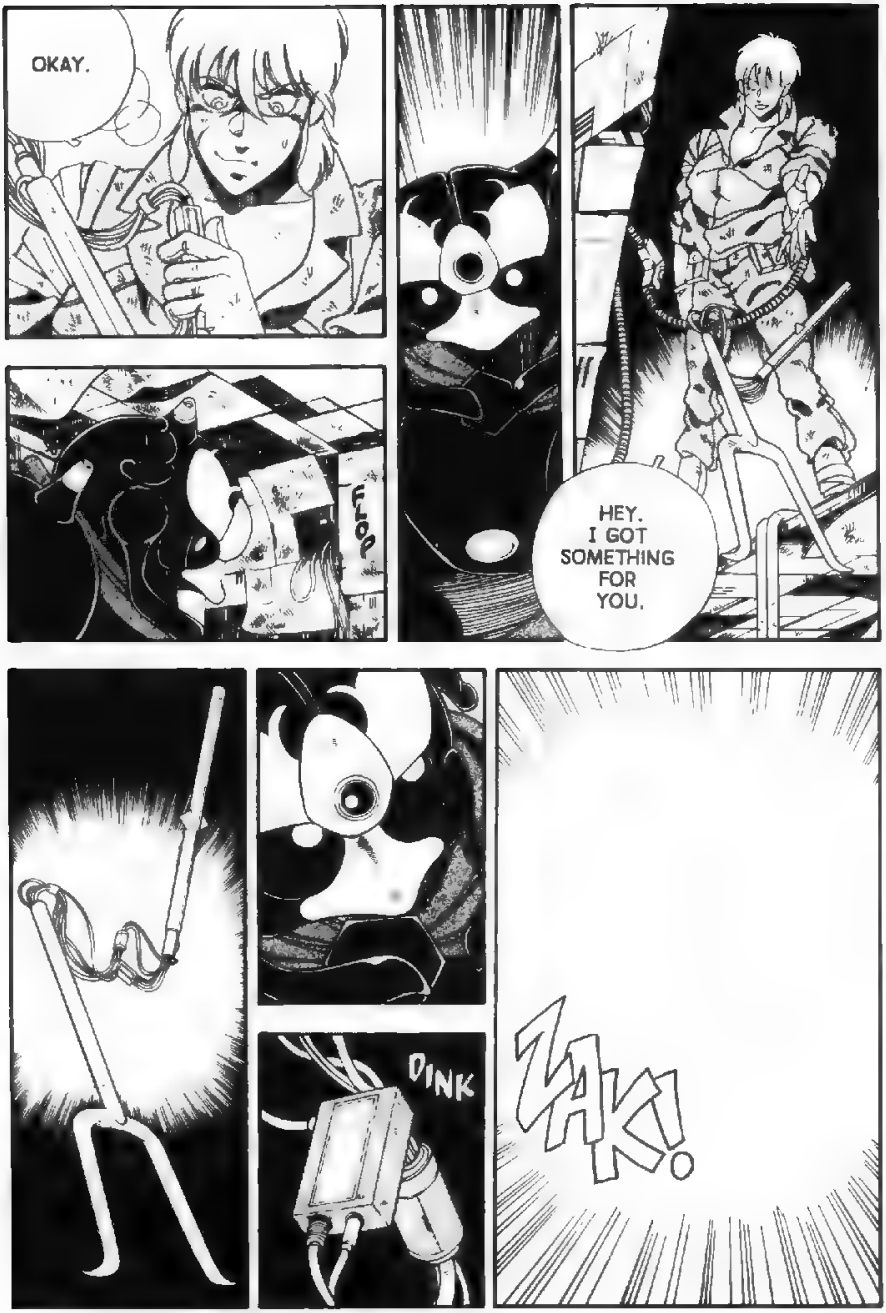
'BYE NOW.
SHHHHHHHH
KONK
OH.
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
GRC
OOM
INCREDIBLE POWER...
ARE YOU HUMAN UNDER THAT ARMOR?

WELL, THAT'S *SOMETHING* TO BE PROUD OF.
BLOW
SNAP!
SHHHHHHHHH
GYUUUNN
NNNNNNN
WHEW
NNNNNNN
ONE ARM... JUST ABOUT GONE...

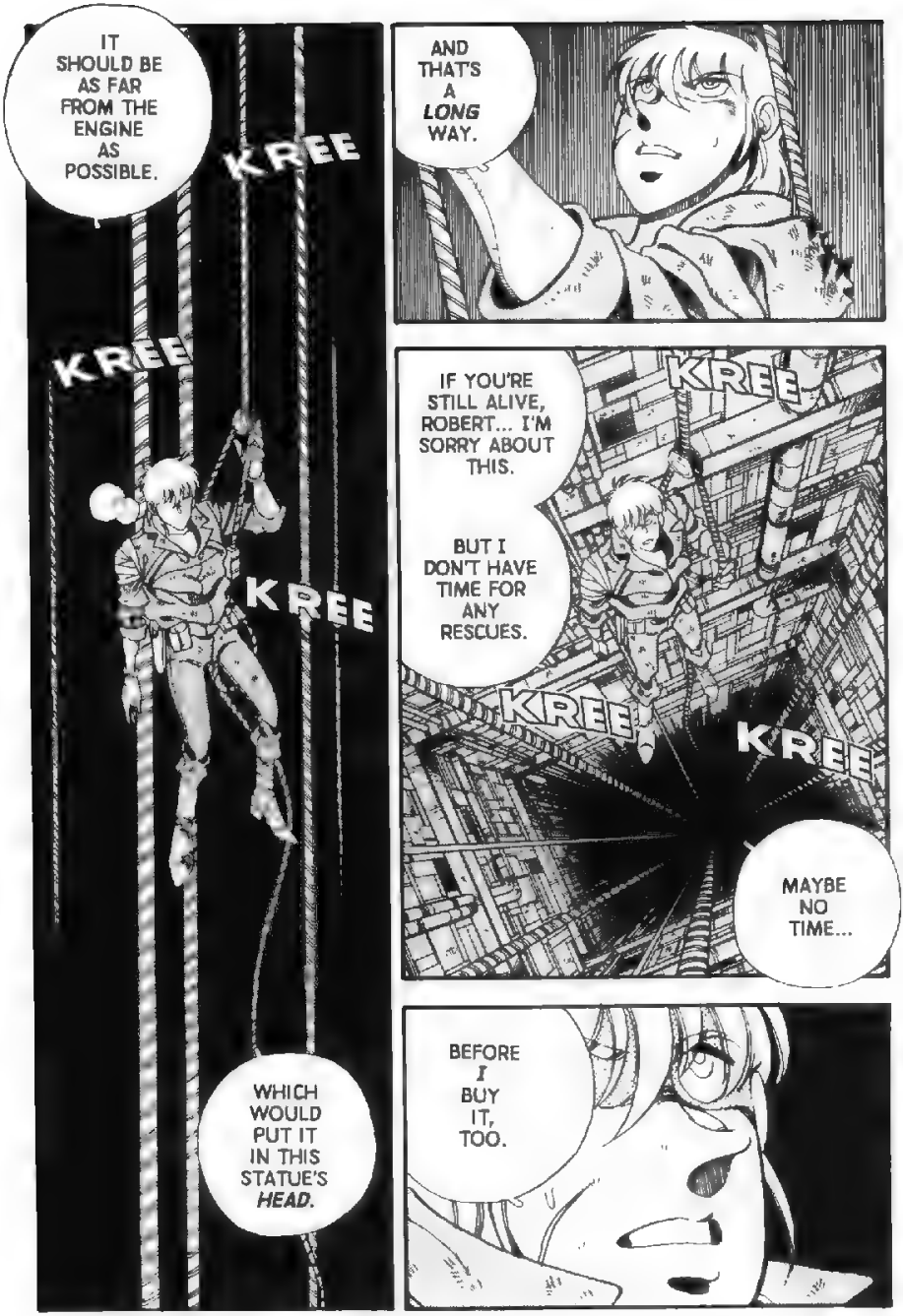
NNNNNNN
THIS TIME...MAY NOT MAKE IT.
IT'S NO GO, GREY. NAGOSHI IS...
NAGOSHI... CITY...
WIP
SH... SHU...
"SHU..." DAMN IT, ROBERT, WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?
SKCH SKCH
?
GYUUU
SKCH
SKCH

135
136
137
95
96
97
56
57
WHY'S IT ST--
SHHHHHH
BOW!
KONG!

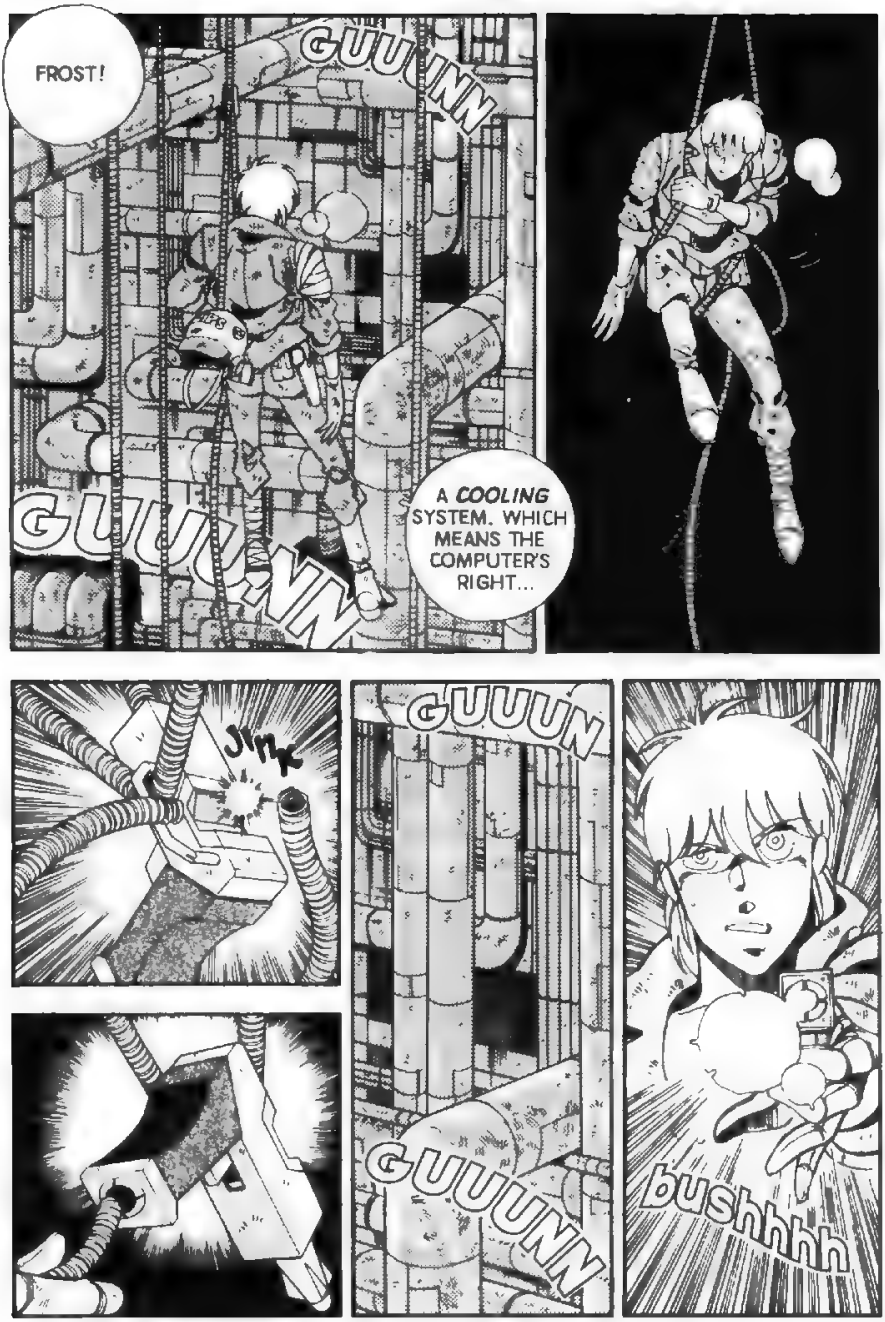
DON'T FIND ME YET... A COUPLE MINUTES...
...TIME TO CONNECT THIS *WIRE*...
NOT YET.

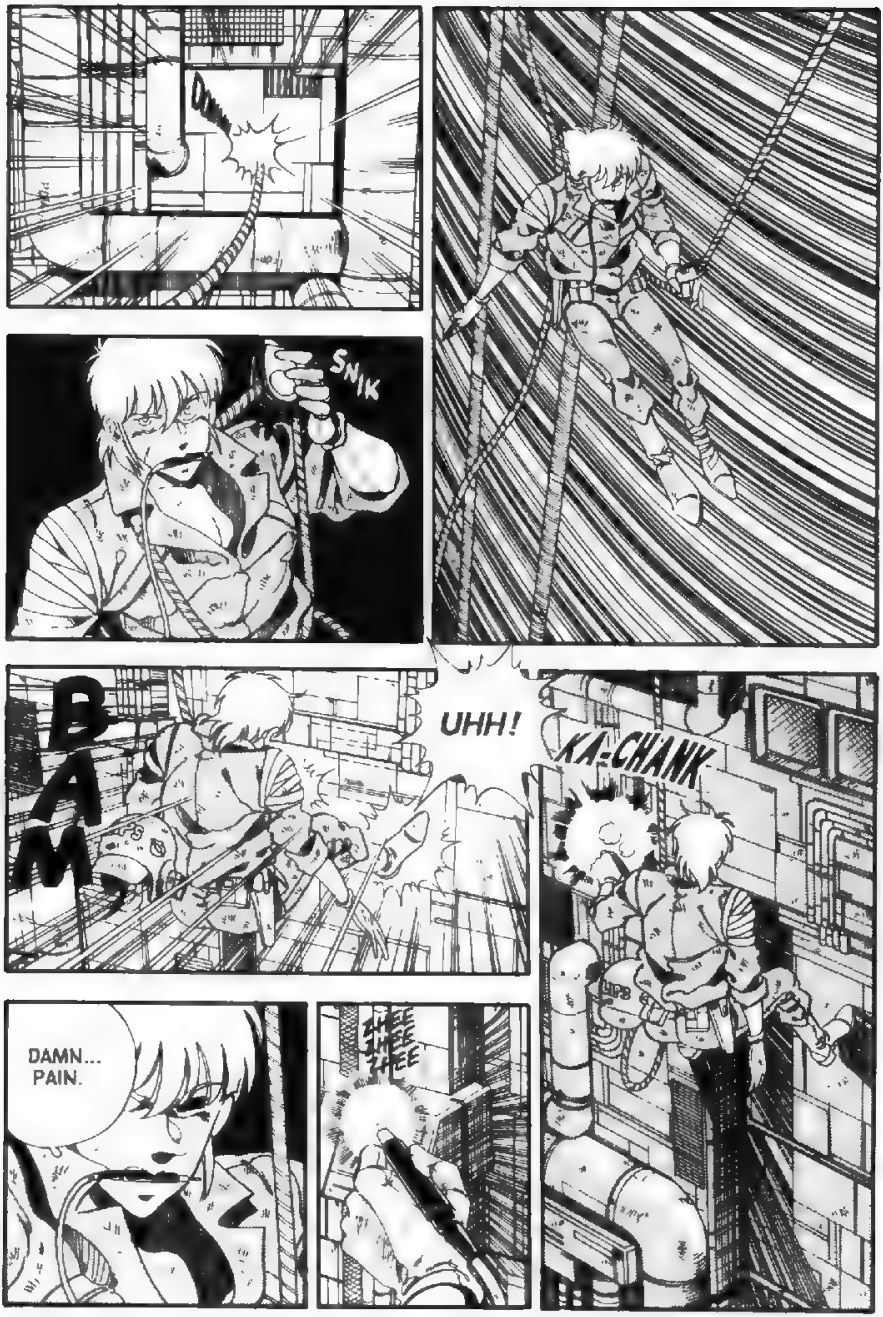

OKAY.
FLOP
HEY.
I GOT
SOMETHING
FOR
YOU.
DINK
ZAK!

BA
GOOM
SORRY, GUYS.
KREEE KREEE KREEE
KREE
I'VE BEEN ISSUED SUCH LOUSY WEAPONS--I'VE HAD TO GET GOOD AT CUSTOMIZING THEM.
KREE
KREE
NOW...
WHAT FLOOR IS THE MAIN COMPUTER ON?


IT SHOULD BE AS FAR FROM THE ENGINE AS POSSIBLE.
KREE
KREE
KREE
WHICH WOULD PUT IT IN THIS STATUE'S *HEAD.*
AND THAT'S A *LONG* WAY.
IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, ROBERT... I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY RESCUES.
KREE
KREE
KREE
MAYBE NO TIME...
BEFORE *I* BUY IT, TOO.

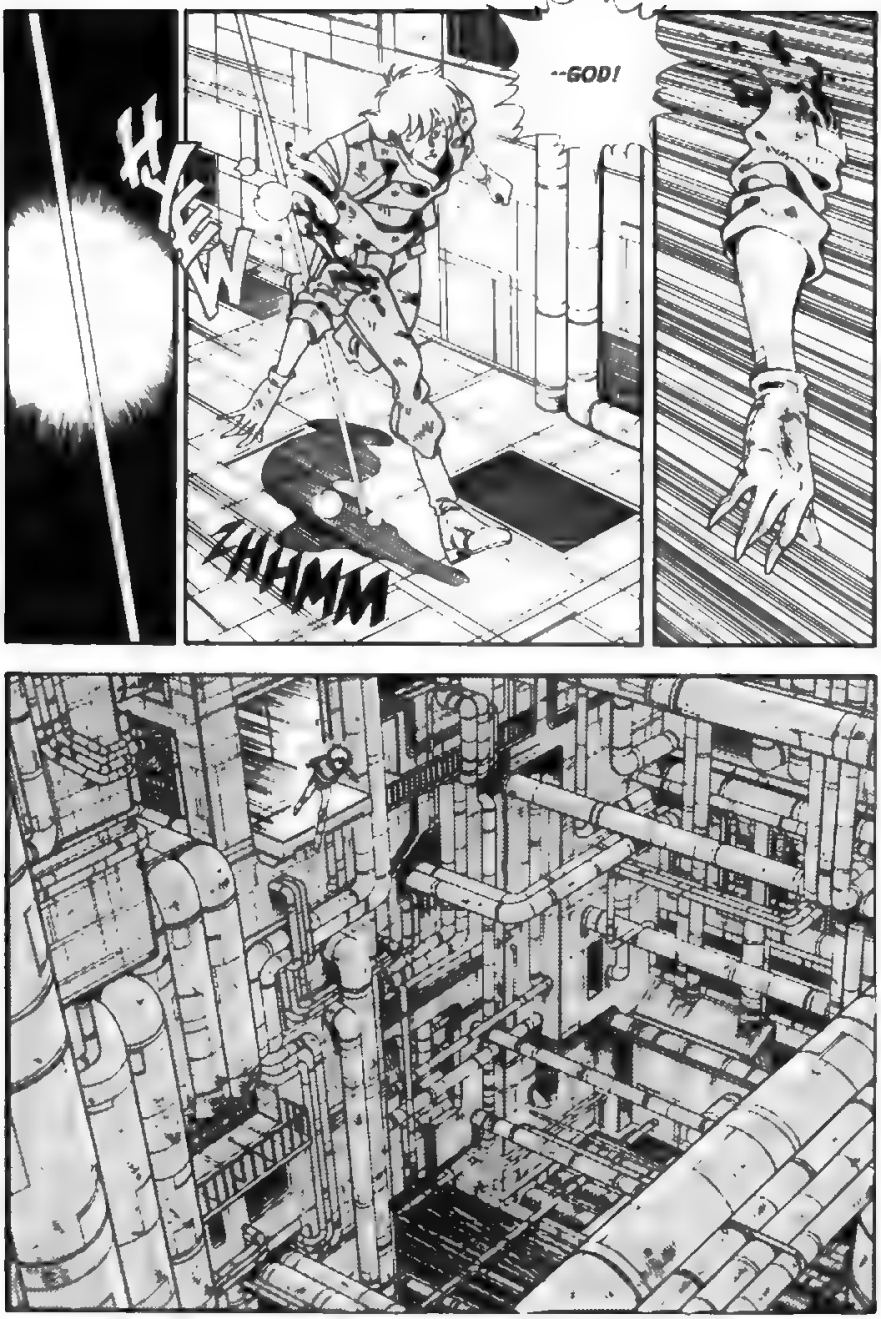
NO FOOLIN', BOY.
GUUUNN
GUUUNN
JUST HOW *FAR* DO I HAVE TO CLIMB?
GUUUNN
GUUUNN
HOW FAR...
HOW...

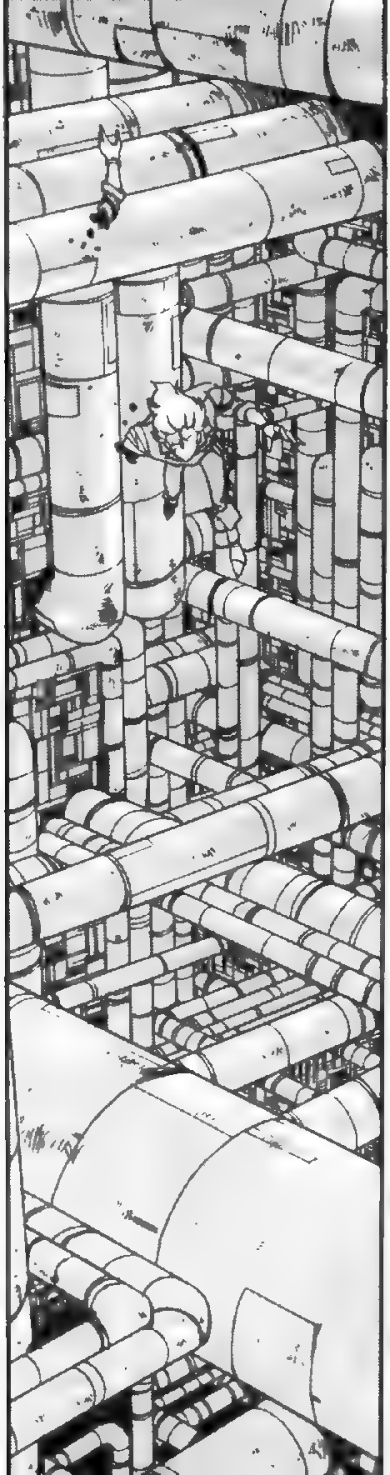

FROST!
GUUUNN
GUUUNN
A COOLING SYSTEM. WHICH MEANS THE COMPUTER'S RIGHT...
JINK
GUUUN
GUUUNN
bushhhh


SNIK
BAM
UHH!
KA-CHANK
DAMN... PAIN.
THEE THEE THEE

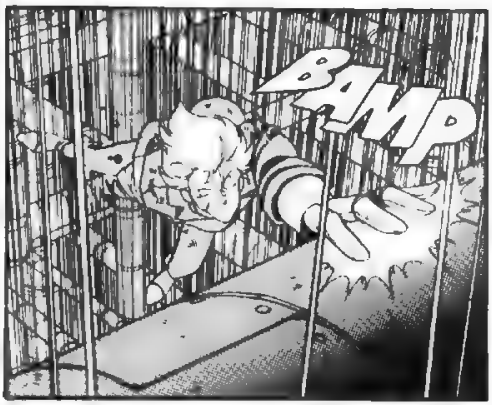
SHUUUN
WISH THEY WERE *ALWAYS* THIS HOSPITABLE.
HMM...
THUMP
WHOA!!
ZOOK
WHAT--
PYEW

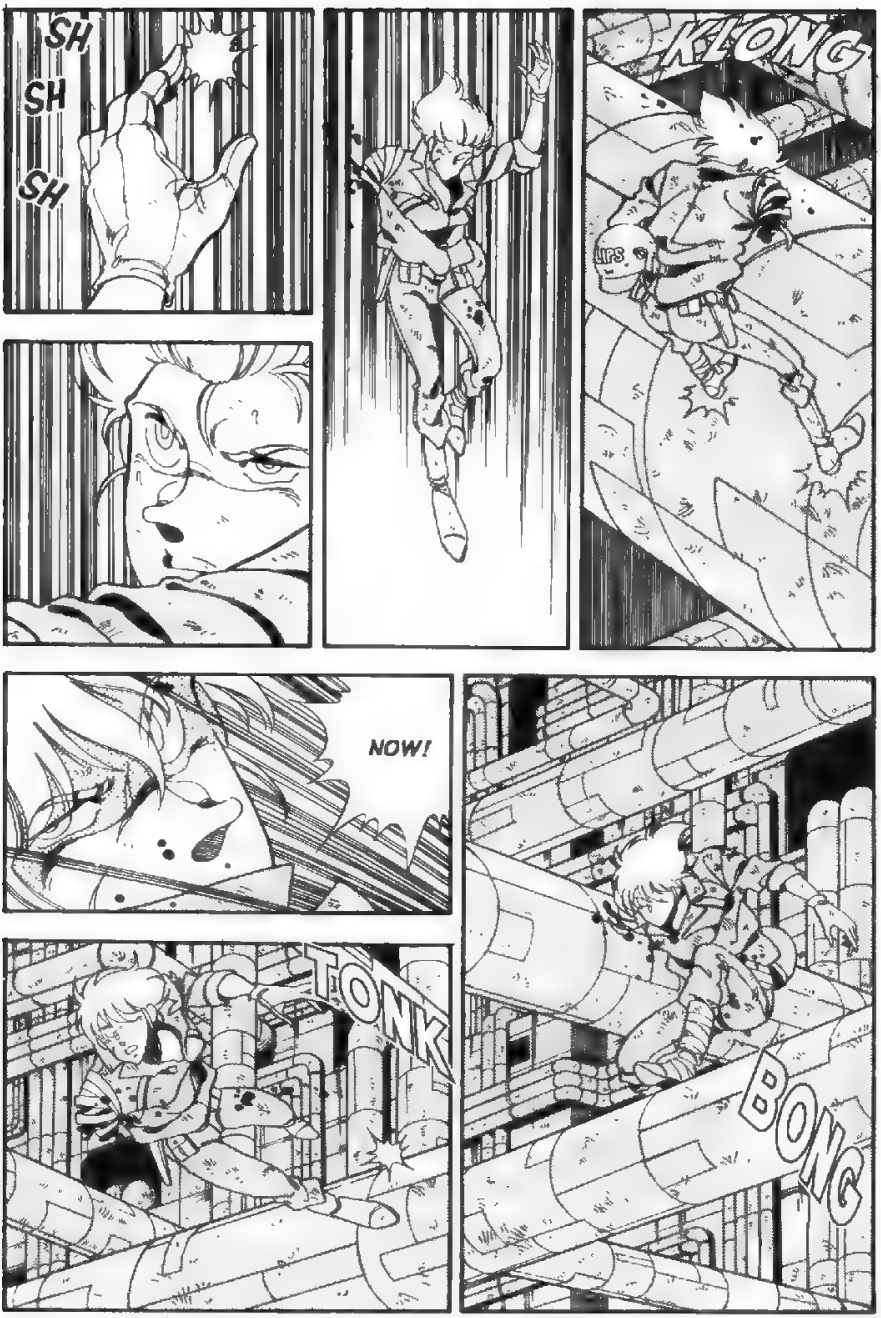
YOW!
PYEW
AUGH!
BTH!
ZHAP
ZOOK
DAMN.
HELL OF A WAY TO ATTACK.
NO CLASS.
OH--


HYEW
--GOD!
AHHMM

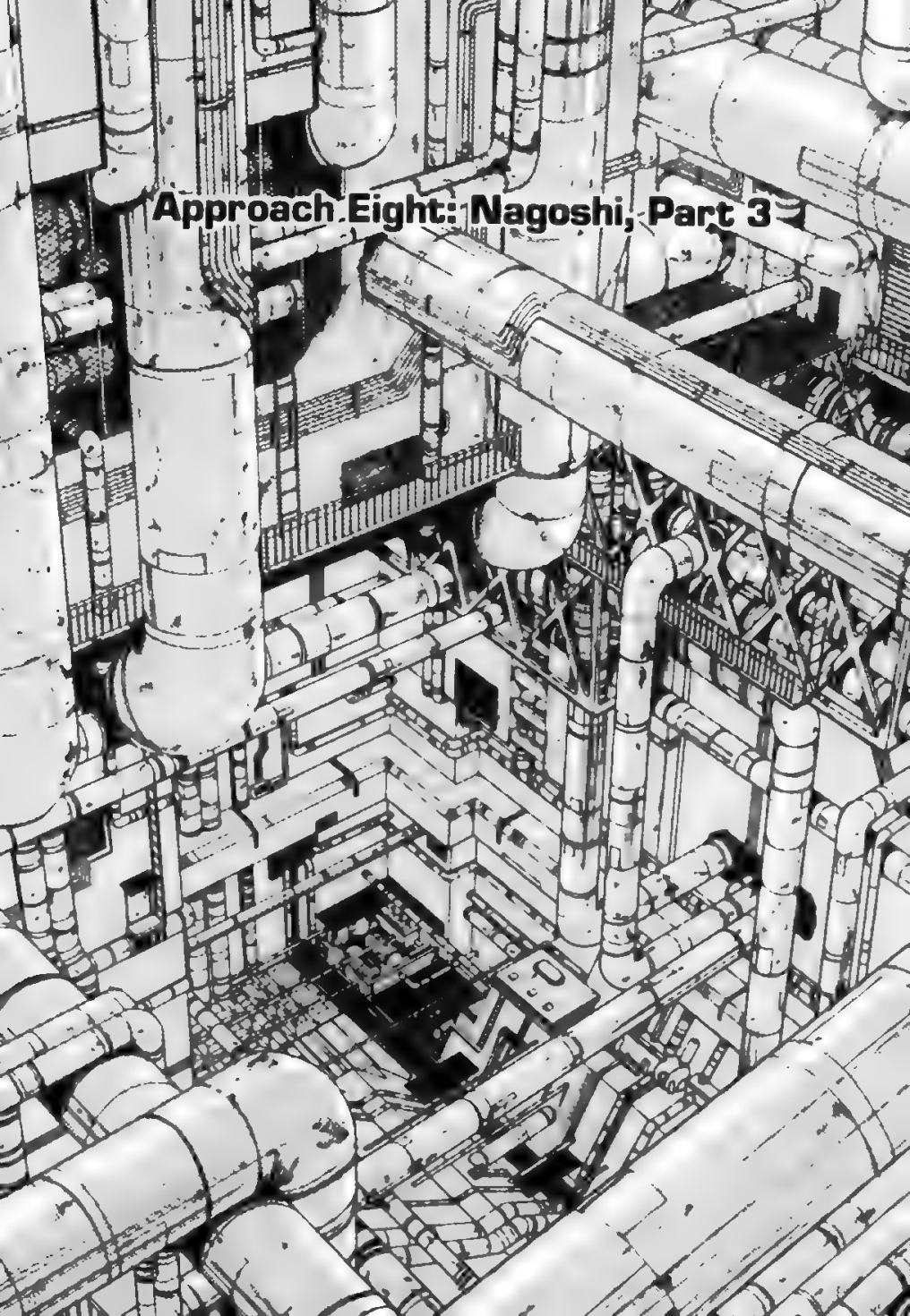


NO!!


BAMP

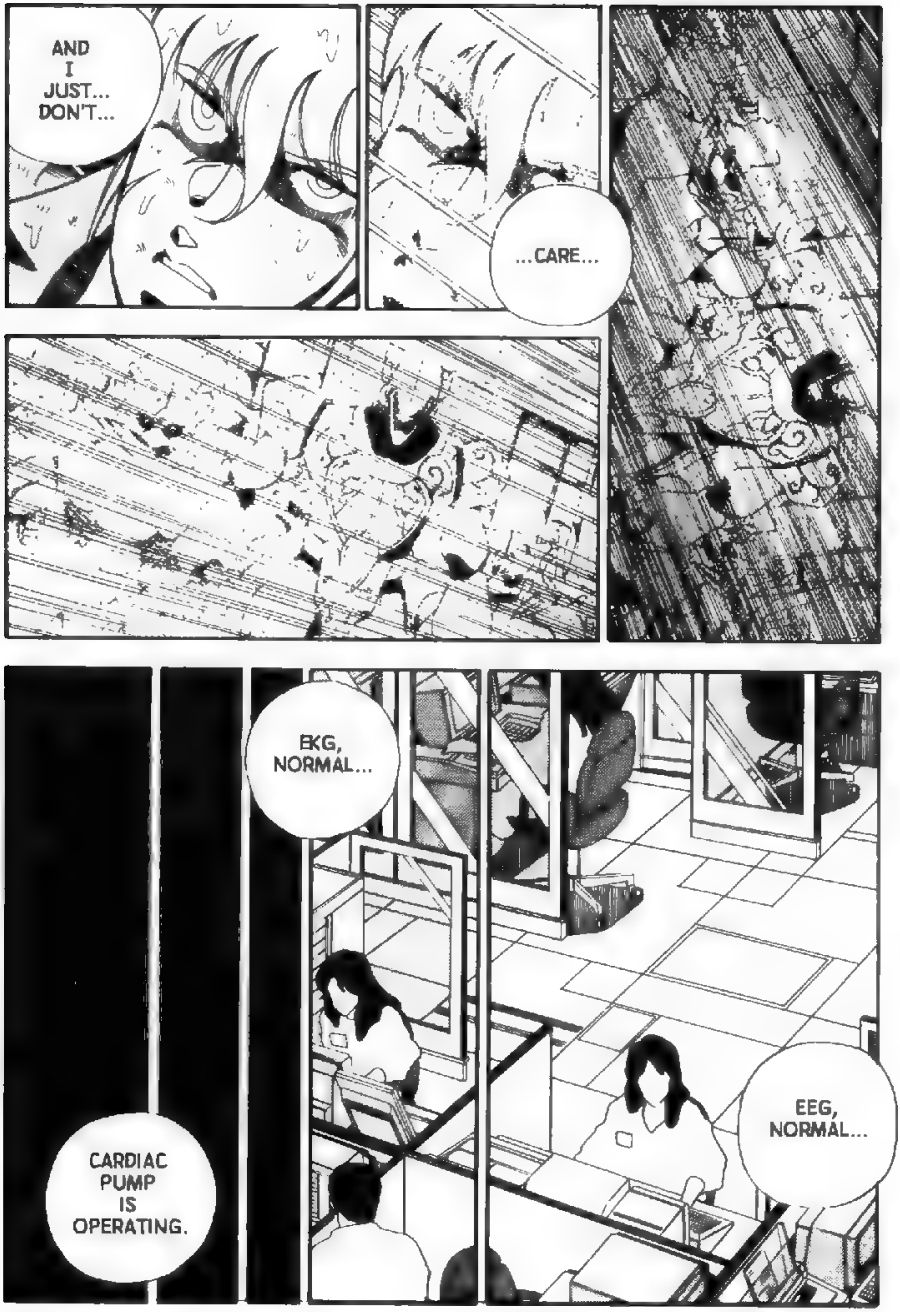

SH
SH
SH
KLONG
UPS
NOW!
TONK
BONG

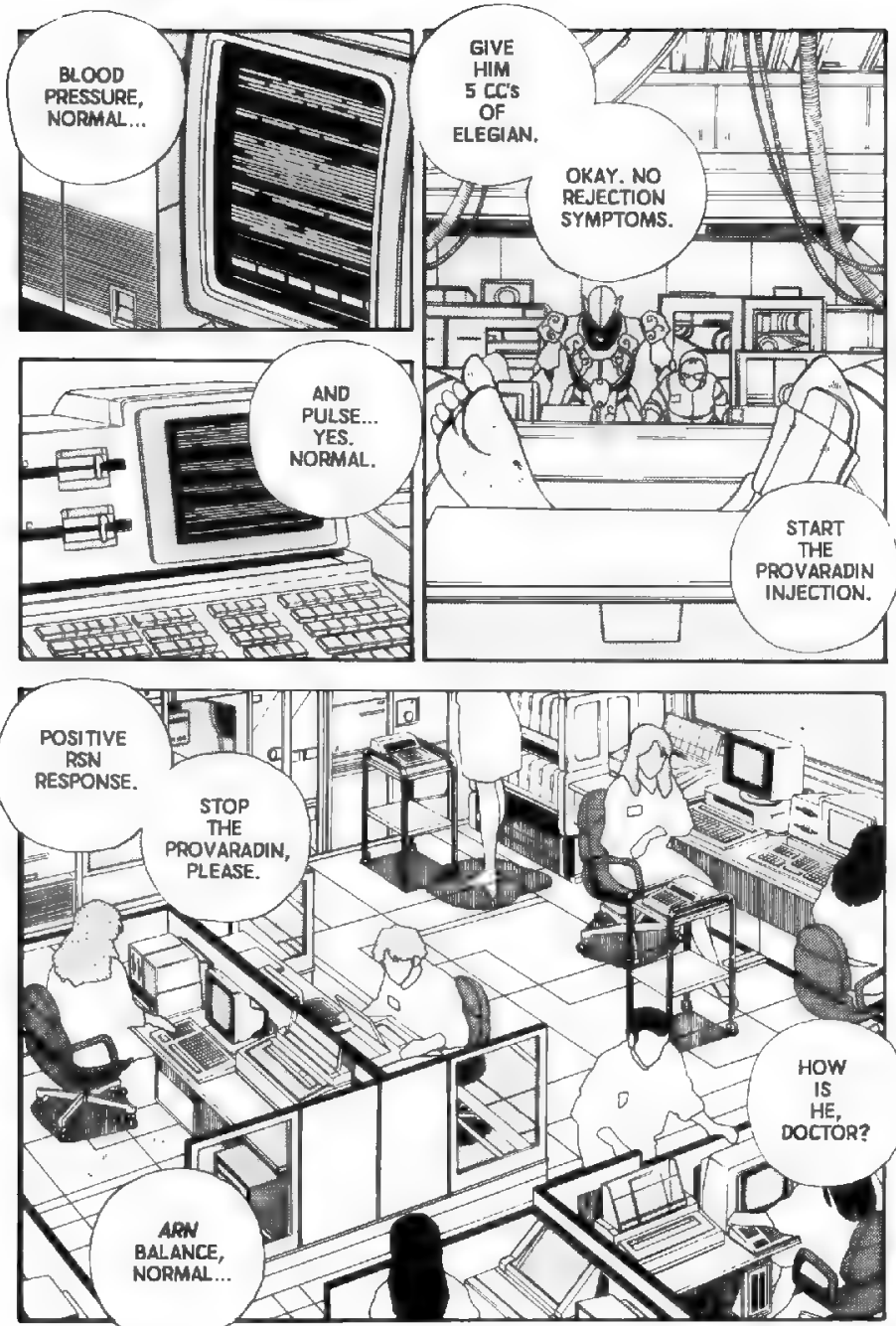
VOOSH
SMASH
MPH!!
.....
...WATER.
THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE...
...GREY DEATH.


Approach Eight: Nagoshi, Part 3

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, GREY.
BEEN A LONG...?

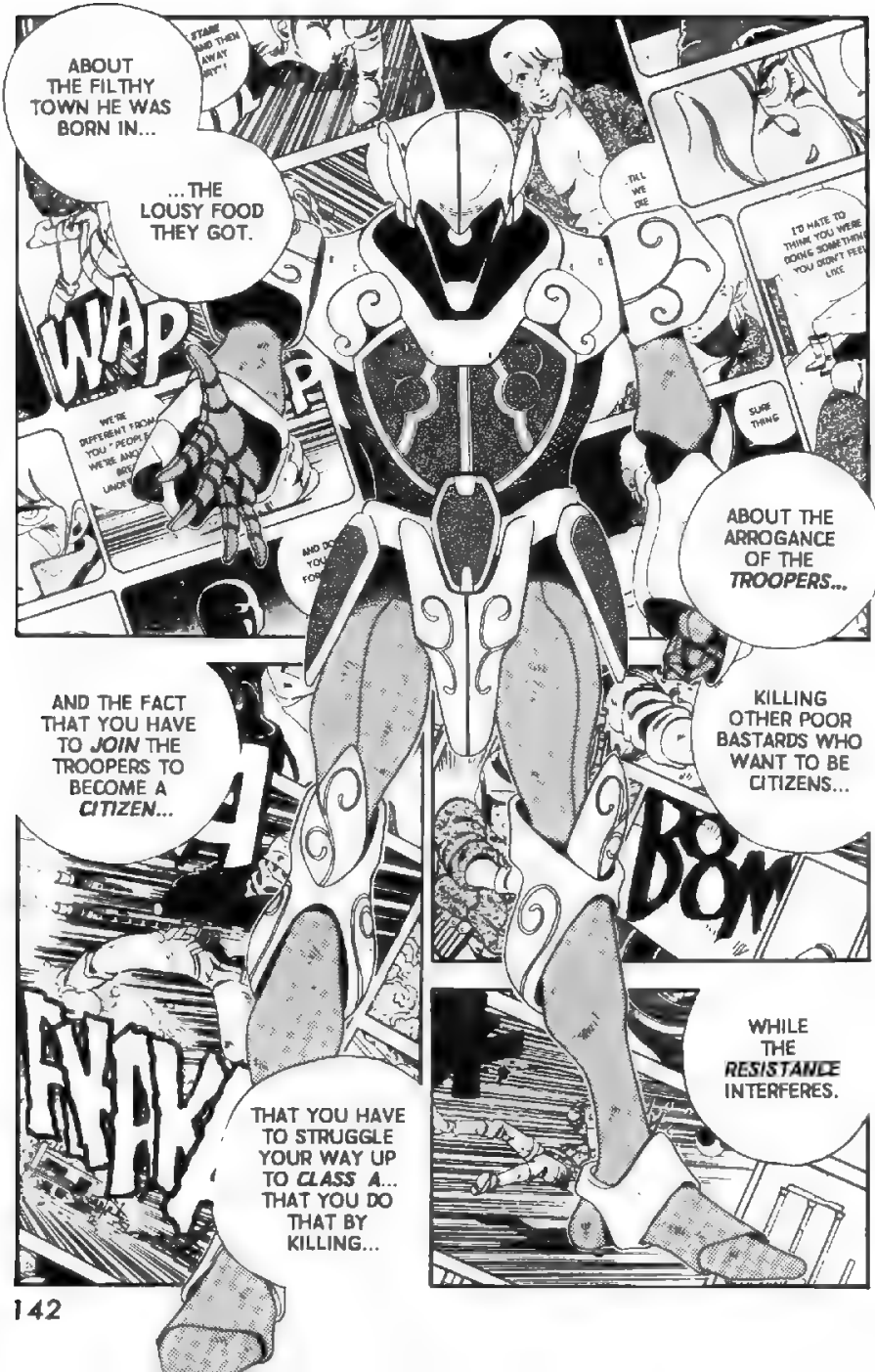
YOU'RE A HALFLING NOW... RED.
YEAH. AFTER MY LAND-CARRIER WAS ACED.
WELL. I DO HOPE THE RESISTANCE IS KEEPING YOU HAPPY.
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON TOO, GREY.
I DON'T WANT TO.


AND I JUST... DON'T...
...CARE...
EKG, NORMAL...
EEG, NORMAL...
CARDIAC PUMP IS OPERATING.


BLOOD PRESSURE, NORMAL...
GIVE HIM 5 CC's OF ELEGIAN.
OKAY. NO REJECTION SYMPTOMS.
AND PULSE... YES. NORMAL.
START THE PROVARADIN INJECTION.
POSITIVE RSN RESPONSE.
STOP THE PROVARADIN, PLEASE.
HOW IS HE, DOCTOR?
ARN BALANCE, NORMAL...

WE EXPECT HIM TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS VERY SOON.
BUT...
BUT WHAT?
WE CAN'T BE SURE HE'LL JOIN US. IS IT WISE TO GIVE HIM THESE CAPABILITIES?
GREY DEATH IS GOING TO BE A FORMIDABLE CREATURE.

THOSE ARE *LARA'S* ORDERS. KEEP GREY ALIVE...
...AND GIVE HIM *ALL* THE TOP CAPABILITIES.
WHY IS LARA SO INTERESTED IN HIM?
MAYBE...GREY'S THE ONE WHO CAN GO UP AGAINST *BIG MAMA.*
WELL...IT'S TRUE THAT HE'S THE ONLY ATTACKER EVER TO REACH THE CORE OF NAGOSHI.
TENACITY, I SUPPOSE.
NO. ANGER.
ANGER? ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT EVERYTHING.

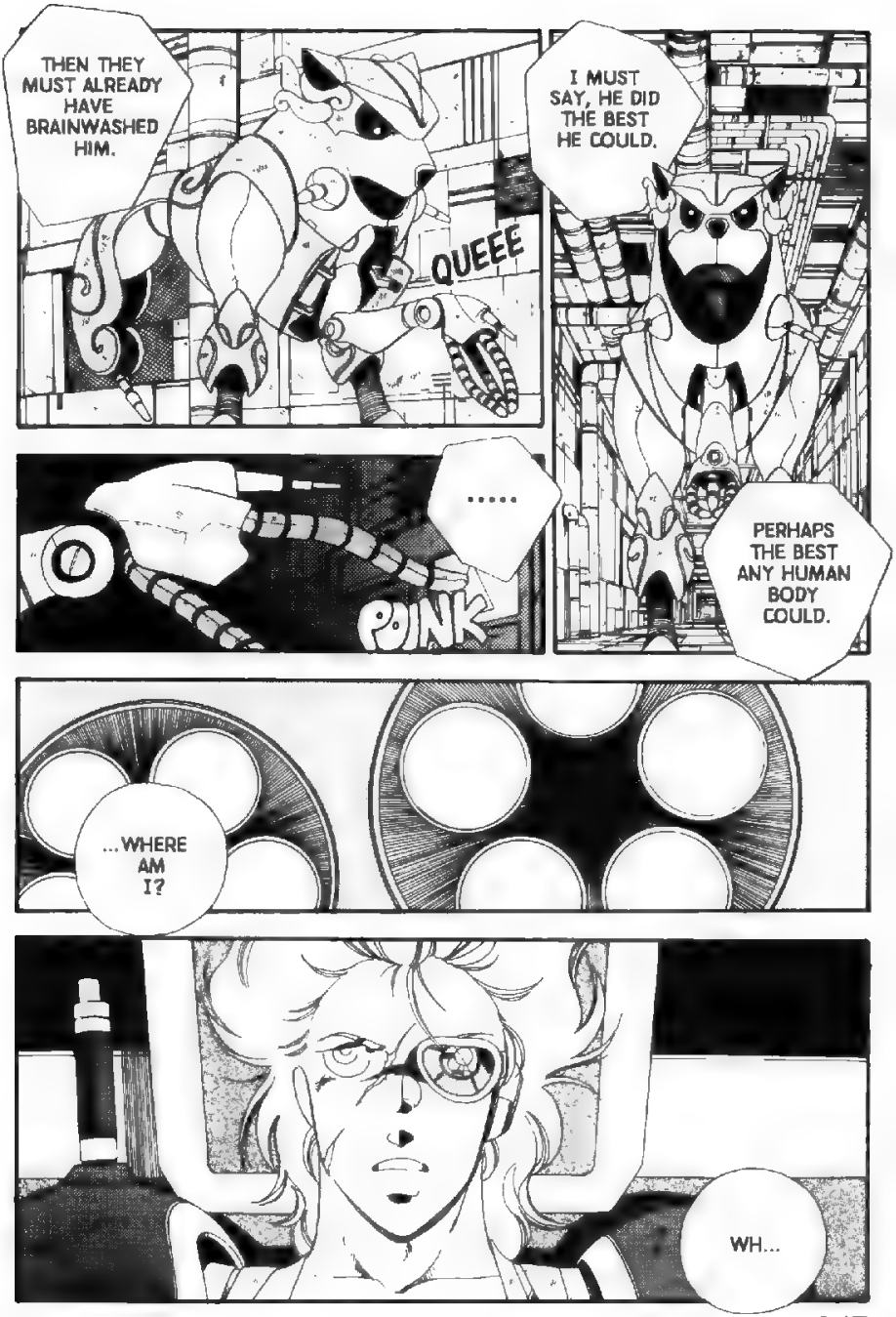

ABOUT THE FILTHY TOWN HE WAS BORN IN...
...THE LOUSY FOOD THEY GOT.
WAP
ABOUT THE ARROGANCE OF THE *TROOPERS*...
KILLING OTHER POOR BASTARDS WHO WANT TO BE CITIZENS...
BOOM
AND THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE TO *JOIN* THE TROOPERS TO BECOME A *CITIZEN*...
WHILE THE *RESISTANCE* INTERFERES.
THAT YOU HAVE TO STRUGGLE YOUR WAY UP TO *CLASS A*... THAT YOU DO THAT BY KILLING...

AND... LIPS WAS KILLED...
SERVICE CREW D, CLEAR KUBANDAS FROM THE PASSAGE.
FIRE FIGHTERS, LET'S HURRY UP!
SERVICE CREW B, OPEN THE SHUTTER.
DEMON SQUAD 92, SUPPORT CREW B.

KASUGA-- DEMON SQUAD 24--
--HAVE YOU FOUND THE BODY OF THE HALFLING WHO PILOTED THE ATTACKER'S KUBANDA?
NO CONFIRMATION YET, SIR.
SHIT. EVERY 30 SECONDS THE SAME DAMN QUES--
CAPTAIN.
IVAN FOUND THIS ON THE UPPER LEVEL.
THE HALFLING'S HAND?
I DON'T THINK IT'S HIS HEAD.

I WANT HIS HEAD *NEXT*.
YES, SIR.
WHAT A JOKE.
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, BOY?
WHAT? NO SIR.
AH, BUT WHAT *IS* THAT FOOL GREY UP TO?
AS IF SOME GANG OF 20-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN COULD KILL *ME*.
NOW THAT I'VE FINALLY FIXED MY RADIO, HE DOESN'T ANSWER.

I CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER IN THIS BODY, GREY.
GO FETCH RAMOS OF SERVICE CREW C.
ROGER, SIR!
HEY, YOU! ION!
WHAT'S HIS NAME? UH... GREY. YEAH.
I HEARD RED WAS HIS SUPERIOR WHEN THEY WERE BOTH TROOPERS.
OKAY. THAT EXPLAINS WHY THEY GAVE HIM THE HALFLING TREATMENT.
SO... GREY'S BECOME A HALFLING.
NOT THE WAY I HEARD IT. I HEARD IT WAS LARA'S ORDERS.
HMM. LARA'S ORDERS.


THEN THEY MUST ALREADY HAVE BRAINWASHED HIM.
QUEEE
I MUST SAY, HE DID THE BEST HE COULD.
.....
PERHAPS THE BEST ANY HUMAN BODY COULD.
POINK
...WHERE AM I?
WH...

YOU FINALLY AWAKE?
UH...
NO. NOT YET.
WH...
.....
WHAT IS THIS?
WE GAVE YOU A HALFLING OPERATION, GREY.

IF WE HADN'T, YOU'D BE COLD MEAT RIGHT NOW.
AS IT IS, YOU'VE GOT NAGOSHI'S BEST WEAPONS IN YOU.
HALFLING, HUH?
YOU'VE GOT LARA TO THANK.
WHO'S THIS LARA?
NAGOSHI'S QUEEN.
NO. NO. GODDESS.
A MERCIFUL GODDESS... SPARES HER ENEMIES, HUH?
WHEN I WAS BROUGHT TO NAGOSHI...
...THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I SAID.
RED... WOULD YOU MIND GETTING ME SOME CLOTHES?

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
141 142 143
01 102 103
61 62 63
MY LIFE MAY END A BIT SOONER THAN I THOUGHT.
WELL, THEN, IF THAT'S THE CASE...
I HAVE ONE LAST RESORT.
PING
55 156 157
15 116 117
75 76 77
35 36 37
KA-TU-MP

I REGRET THAT I CAN'T DESTROY TOY...
...BUT THERE'S NO CHOICE.
SOMEDAY, SOMEDAY, A MAN LIKE GREY WILL COME AGAIN.
THE END OF ME, OF MY LEGACY, OF MY CHILD...
beeeee
AND THAT WILL BE THE END...
beeeee
beeeee
...THE END OF TOY!
ZAK

YOU STILL AMAZE ME.
LESS THAN THREE HOURS AFTER THE OPERATION...
A NORMAL MAN WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO CRAWL OUT OF *BED.*
SINCE WHEN IS *DEATH* A NORMAL MAN?

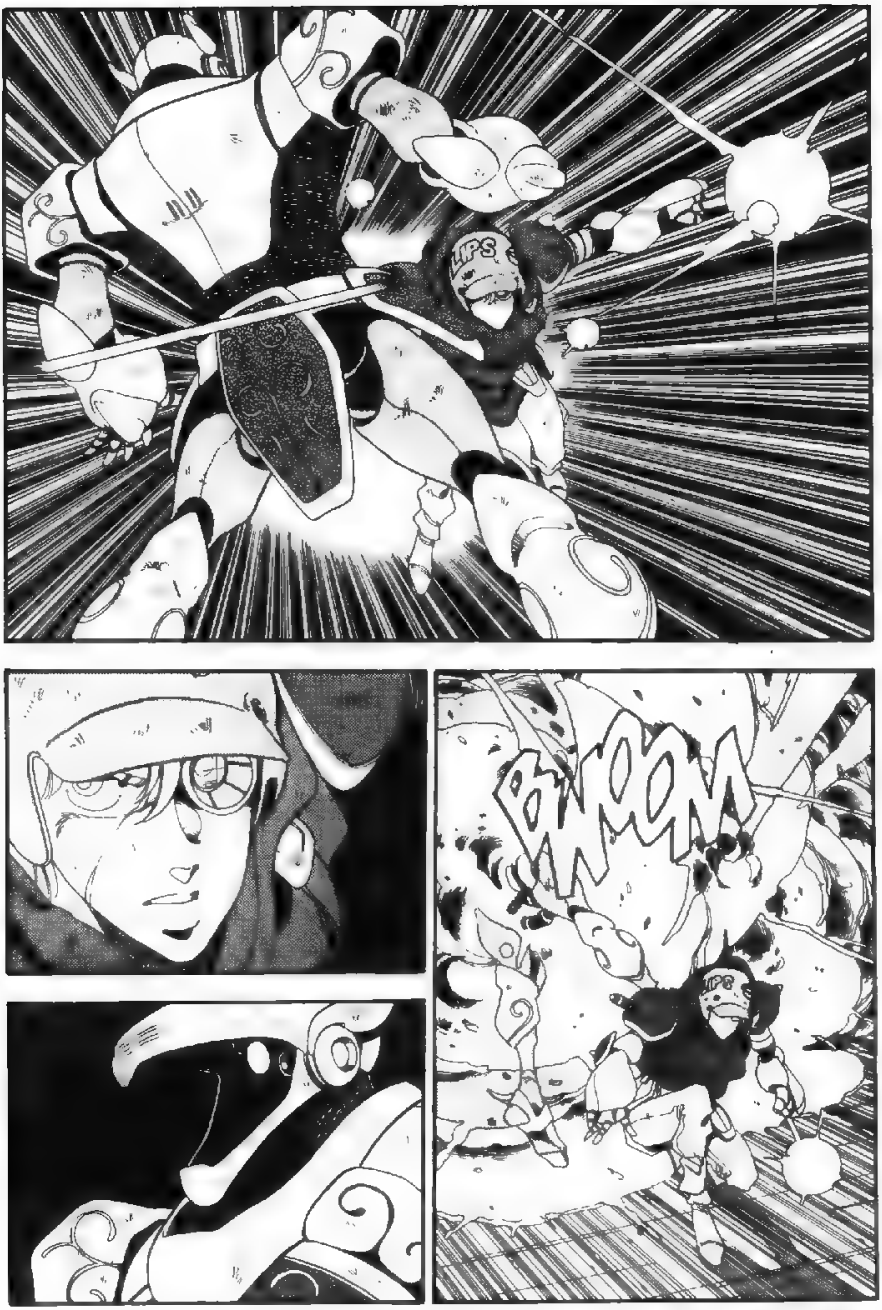
TOOK ME A WEEK BEFORE I COULD WALK.
!!
beee beee beee
YOU'RE JUST TOO COOL TO--
BRRRMMM
?
WHAT IS IT, CONTROL?
.....
BIK
AN ION!
AN ION TRIGGERED AN EXPLOSION IN THE MASTER COMPUTER--
--WE'RE LOSING ALL CONTROL.
I REPEAT--AN ION TRIGGERED AN EXPLOSION IN THE MASTER COMPUTER...

AN "ION"?
RRRRMMM
A KIND OF DOLL. MODELED AFTER SOME ANIMAL CALLED A "DOG."
THE MASTER COMP MUST'VE BEEN ICED.
ROBERT...
WHAT?
RMMM
UH...ANY CHANCE FOR REPAIRS?
NIX. THE SUB-COMP CAN COVER FOR A WHILE. BUT THIS BASE...
...IT'S JUST TOO DAMN BIG FOR A SUB-COMP.
RRM
RRM
RRM
I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO MAKE A SAFE LANDING.

YOU SHOULD ESCAPE WHILE YOU CAN, GREY.
SHIDARA AND I HAVE TO STAY. TO PROTECT LARA.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
WHY NOT COME WITH ME?
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO FIGHT YOU, RED.
I KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU EITHER.
BUT NAGOSHI MUST DESTROY BIG MAMA AND HER CITY!
ZWOOM

WHY, RED?
BAK!
WHY STICK WITH NAGOSHI?!
NAGOSHI IS THE IDEAL!
ZWOOM!
THE IDEAL?
CHANK
ONLY FOR THE CHOSEN FEW, RED!
DAMN IT, IT'S JUST LIKE THE CITY!
NO!!

IT'S THE SAME, RED.
NO! NO!
WOOMP
THE SAME... THE SAME...
NO!!
RED...


BWOOM

IT'S THE SAME, RED.
NO! NO!
WOOMP
THE SAME... THE SAME...
NO!!
RED...

NAGOSHI... CITY...
NO...
NAGOSHI... IDEAL...
NA... GO...
BASTARDS. BRAINWASHED...

WAIT, SHIDARA!
RED ISN'T HERE YET!
LEAVE HIM! HE WASN'T ONE OF US, ANYWAY!
HE WAS A *TROOPER!*
BUT...
WE CAN REPLACE RED.
BUT YOU ARE THE *ONLY* ONE, LARA!
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT, DON'T YOU?
?!

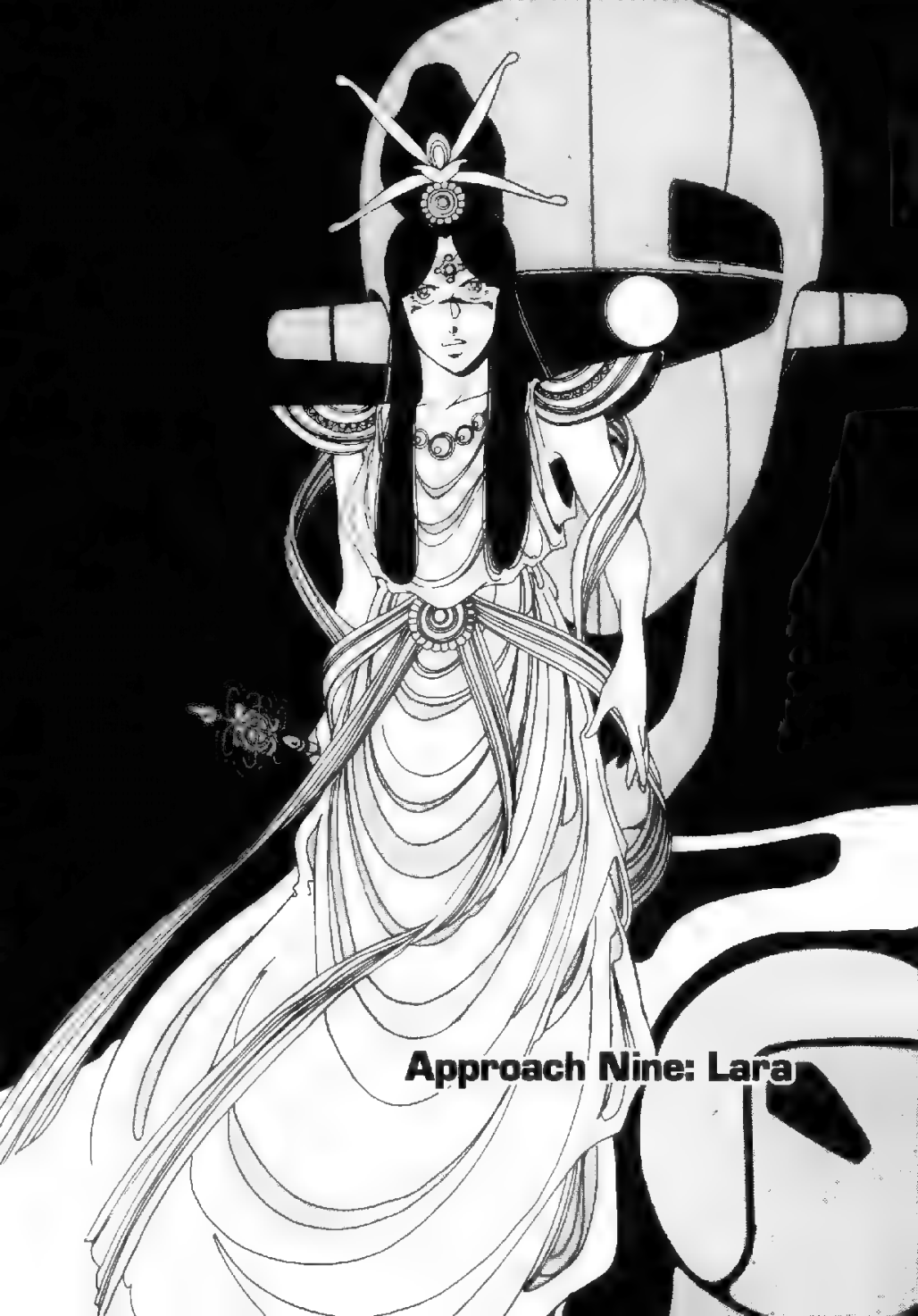
SORRY, QUEEN--OR *GODDESS,* IS IT?
RED ISN'T COMING. I KILLED HIM.
*GET OUT OF THERE, GREY!*
SO. GREY.
REMEMBER-- YOU OWE HER YOUR *LIFE!*
YEAH. I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT, LARA.
I SAID GET *OUT* OF THERE!
*RMRMRMRMRM*
WHY SAVE ME?
YOU KNEW IT WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD.

ANSWER ME, LARA!.
GREY!
BAP
SHOW
I'LL HOLD HIM, LARA! RUN!
SHOW
GNOSH
PYEW
DAMN!
HURRY!

I WON'T LET YOU!
KLANG
HAH!!
GRRROOOMM

WOOSH
BA-BOOM
RMRMRMRMRM
RRRROOOMM

ВАВ
ВН
ВВ
НВА



# Approach Nine: Lara

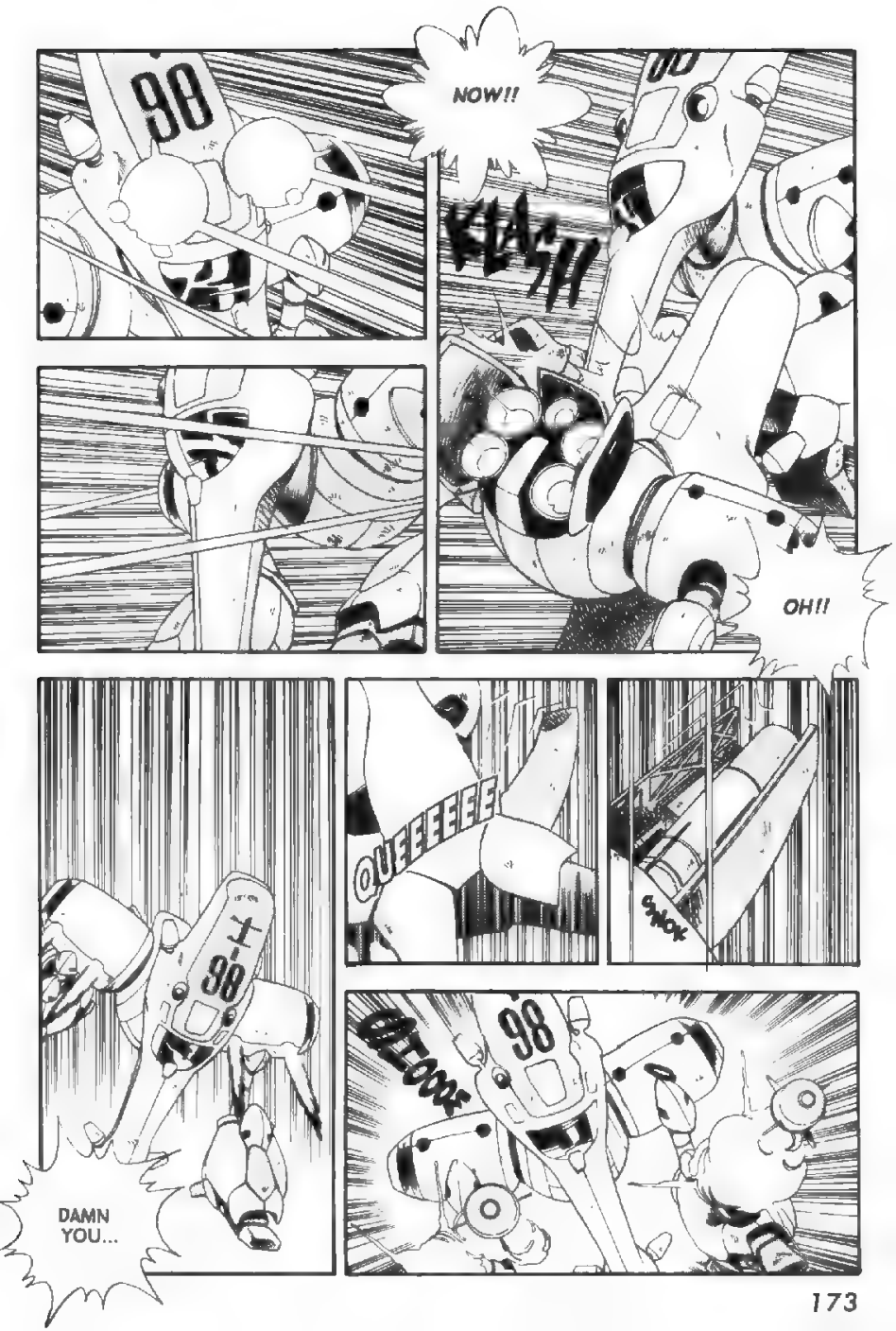
BABABABA
BUH...

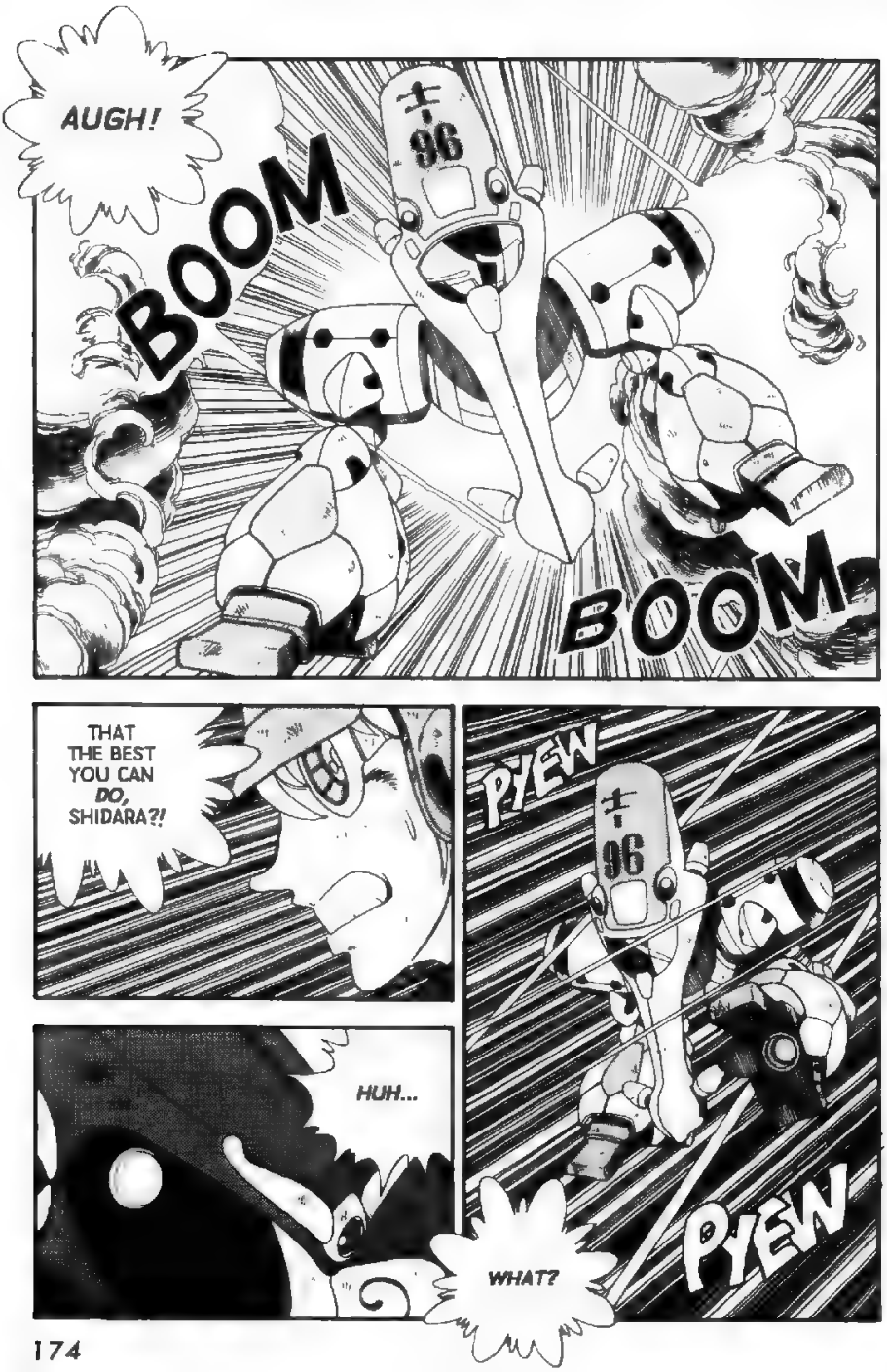
WHOOOM!

VROW
SHIDARA...
VMMMMMM
...AND GREY.

BM BM BM BM
KRAW

1-96
PEW!
UHH!
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE!
NO KIDDING!
VROOO
...THAT I'M ESCAPING?!
BOOM!
BUT WHO SAYS...


98
NOW!!
OH!!
QUEEEEEE
GNOK
98
DAMN YOU...
98
GLOOOK


AUGH!
BOOM
96
BOOM
THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO, SHIDARA?!
PYEW
96
AI
PYEW
HUH...
WHAT?

!!
YOU ALSO, SHIDARA.
STOP PLEASE, GREY!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR POINTLESS CONFLICT, IS IT?
YOU SHARE A COMMON PURPOSE, A COMMON FOE...

THE CITY.
GREY, SHIDARA AND I...
WE'RE ALL TOGETHER, AREN'T WE?
HMPH.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST ANOTHER PRETTY FACE. BUT YOU'RE A PRETTY *TALKER*, TOO.
I WON'T ASK YOU TO TRUST ME. BUT YOU CAN *USE* ME, CAN YOU NOT?

THE THREE OF US CAN COOPERATE... AT LEAST ON *THOSE* TERMS.
AM I CORRECT, SHIDARA? GREY?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN ONE OF YOUR SCOUTING PLANES ACED A PROTOTYPE *OHM?*
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WAS THIS WHEN WE DESTROYED THE BATTALION FROM TOWN 91?
THAT'S WHEN THEY DIED. *LEE* AND... *NOVA.*
*LEE?* THE LEE WHO BELONGED TO SHIDARA?
I DIDN'T KNOW. THERE'S NO WAY THE SENSORS IN A SCOUTING PLANE CAN IDENTIFY A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL.
IT'S TRUE, WE DID KNOW THERE WERE THREE PEOPLE BY THAT PROTOTYPE OHM...
AND WE KNEW THAT ONE OF THEM BELONGED TO SHIDARA.
FFFSSH

BUT HOW COULD WE KNOW THAT THE OTHER TWO WEREN'T *TROOPERS* FROM 91?
WHENEVER NAGOSHI FIRES A *KRAG-SHOT,* NEARLY ALL ITS DEFENSES GO TEMPORARILY DOWN, SO...
I GUESS... EVEN IF I'D KNOWN IT WAS LEE...I WOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED.
WHY DID YOU BRAINWASH *RED?*
I NEVER GAVE ANY SUCH ORDER!
SHIDARA, DID YOU--?
BRAIN-WASH--?
HE WAS SO STUBBORN...
IF I HADN'T DONE IT, NAGOSHI WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED EVEN EARLIER.
HE WOULD HAVE JOINED WITH GREY...
NAGOSHI GOT ACED ANYWAY, DIDN'T IT?

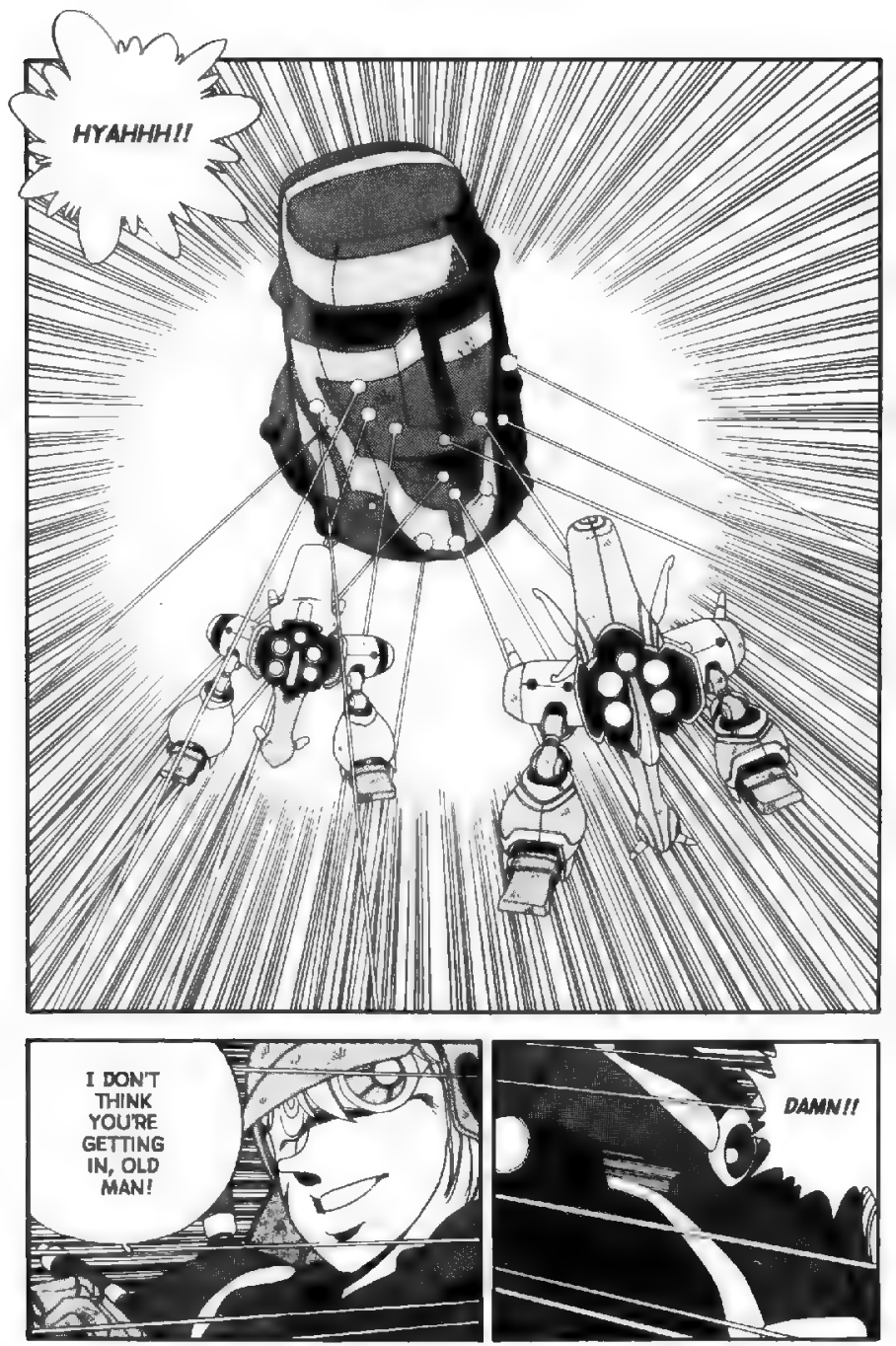
WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
ENOUGH, SHIDARA!
YOU'RE TOO SOFT, LARA.
SHIDARA...
ONE MORE QUESTION.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN-- "NAGOSHI IS THE CITY?"
"NAGOSHI IS THE CITY?"
YOU HEARD THAT FROM ROBERT J. DIMITRI, DIDN'T YOU?
THEN, THAT ION WAS...
ROBERT...
HUH. DIDN'T KNOW YOU AND ROBERT WERE ACQUAINTED, LARA.

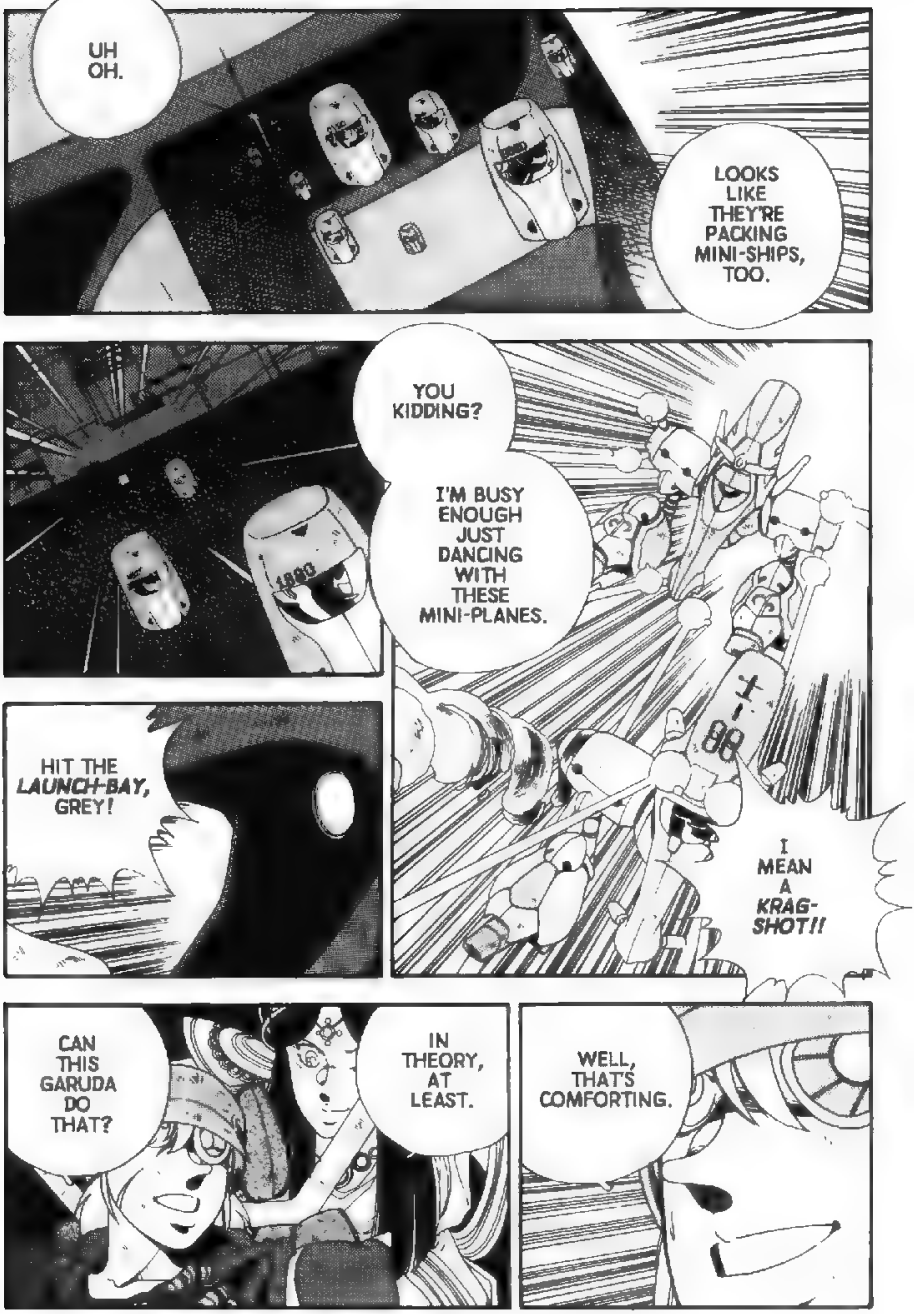
I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT THAT. IN DETAI--
NNNNNN
bNNN
WNNNN
WHAT'S THAT?
NNNNNN
BUUUN
WNNN
WHAT IS IT?!

A FLYING BASE?
WHOSE BASE? IT'S AS BIG AS NAGOSHI!
IT'S THE CITY'S.
THE CITY'S FLYING GUNSHIP... TO FIGHT NAGOSHI!
A FLYING GUNSHIP...?
BUUUN BUUN
IT'S A GODDAMN MONSTER!

WHAT DO WE DO, SHIDARA?
WHAT CAN WE DO...BUT FIGHT?
BNNN
WNNN
IT'S TOO RECKLESS!
THREE OF US, AGAINST SUCH A SHIP...
YOU WITH ME, SHIDARA?
MIGHT AS WELL BE.
LARA-- YOU REMAIN HERE!
GREY-- MOUNT LARA'S GARUDA!
Ba-FOOO
NO TIME TO WASTE, GREY!
NO! I'M COMING!
A GARUDA WILL CARRY TWO!

I'M NOT... WASTING TIME.
YOU'RE TOO DAMN SLOW IN THOSE CLOTHES.
BaFOOO
I'M READY-- LET'S GO!
COULD YOU KEEP YOUR MIND ON THE BATTLE IF I TOOK THEM OFF?
SURE OF YOURSELF, MM?
.....
WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING SO FAR?
VWAH!
THE BANTER CAN WAIT, GREY!
COVER ME!
I'M GOING IN FOR THEIR MAIN COMPUTER!


HYAHHH!!
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GETTING IN, OLD MAN!
DAMN!!


UH OH.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE PACKING MINI-SHIPS, TOO.
YOU KIDDING?
I'M BUSY ENOUGH JUST DANCING WITH THESE MINI-PLANES.
HIT THE *LAUNCH-BAY*, GREY!
I MEAN A *KRAG-SHOT!!*
CAN THIS GARUDA DO THAT?
IN THEORY, AT LEAST.
WELL, THAT'S COMFORTING.

FIRE WHEN YOU HIT 1000 METERS FROM THE BAY!
STAY OFF THE BEAM-CANNON TILL THEN!
I'LL COVER YOU!!
ROGER. I KNEW YOU REALLY LOVED ME.
WHAT'S WRONG, HON? EMBARASSED?
.....
PYEW
SHUT UP, FOOL!

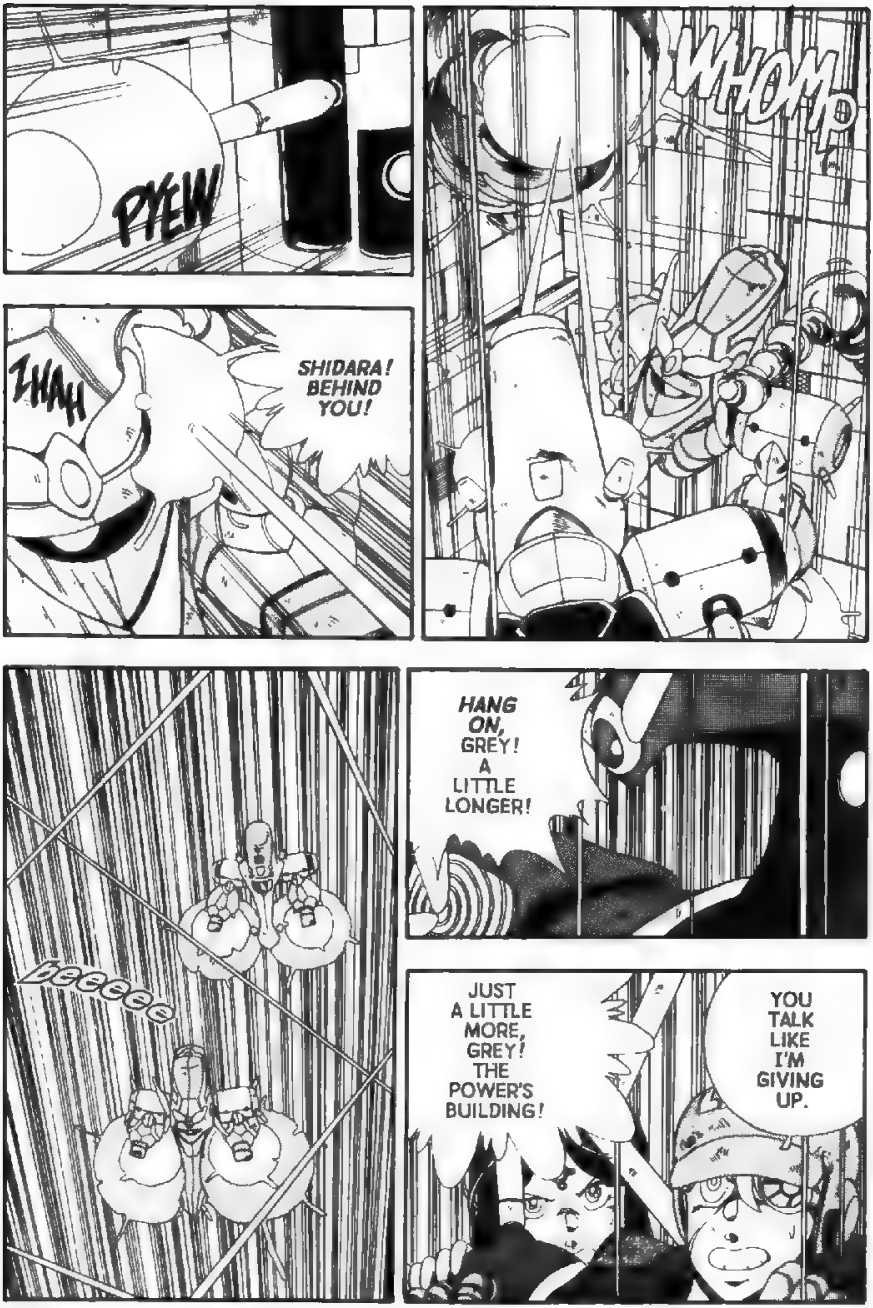
HMPH. NO SENSE OF HUMOR.
THAT'S NATURAL...
A DOLL?
BUT I HEARD HE WAS A CLASS-B TROOPER.
SHIDARA ISN'T A HALFLING, BUT A DOLL.
HE WAS. FROM TOWN 424. BUT THEN THE TOWN'S LITTLE MAMA WENT OUT OF CONTROL.
SHIDARA HAD JUST COME BACK FROM A BATTLE THEATER THE DAY BEFORE...
WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY THE LITTLE MAMA.
JUST BEFORE BRAIN-DEATH, HIS ENTIRE MEMORY WAS REMOVED, AND INPUT INTO AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN, WHICH IN TURN WAS INSTALLED IN A DOLL. THAT'S THE SHIDARA YOU KNOW.

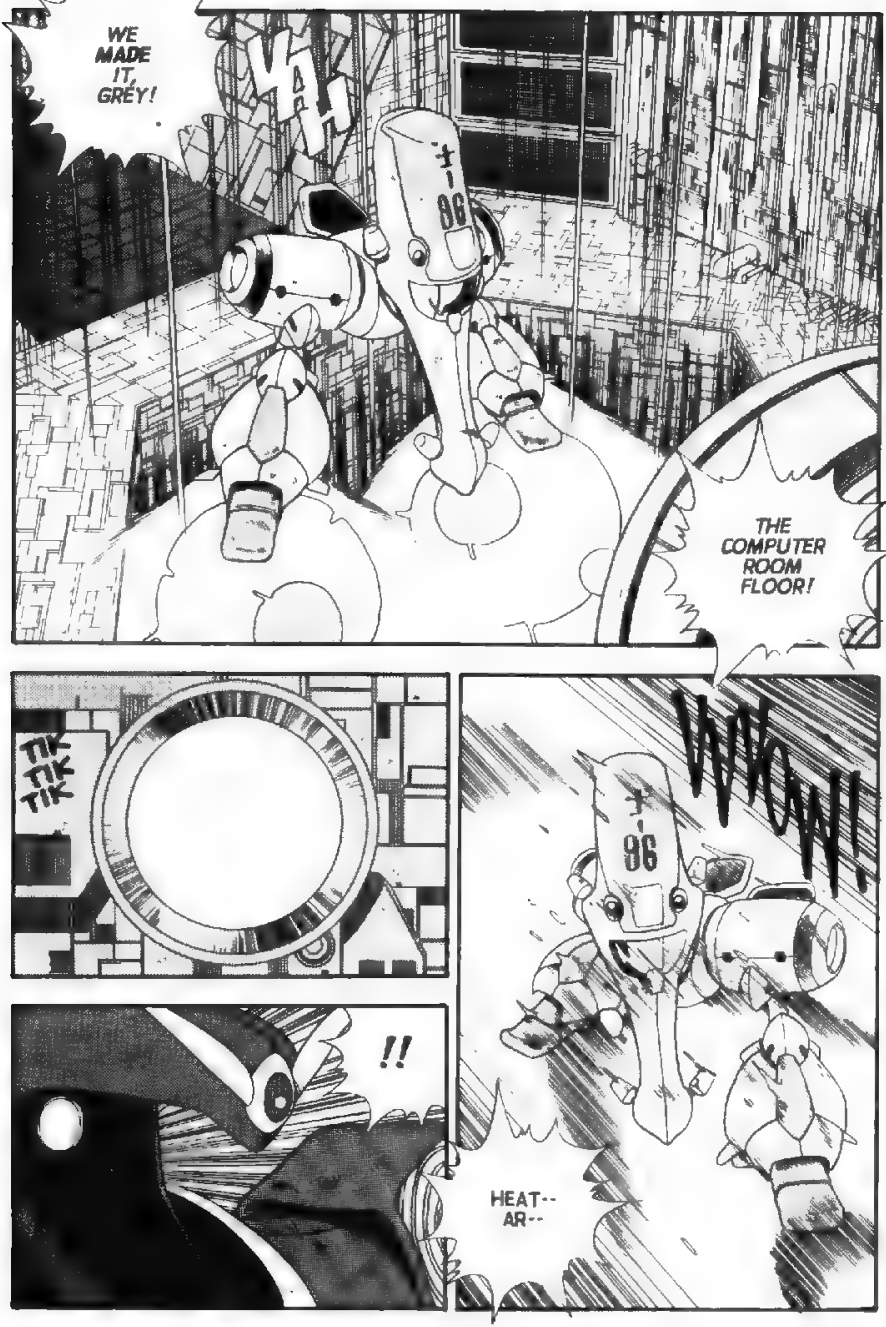
AND, IT WAS I WHO...
WHO MADE HIM FORM A *RESISTANCE* ORGANIZATION. I ALSO FORMED MY OWN ORGANIZATION, TO DESTROY *TOY*...
I WAS TOWN 424'S...
ARE YOU READY, GREY?
I'M READY. YOU GONNA BE SAFE?
THERE'S A DEAD SPOT EVEN YOUR KRAG-SHOT CAN'T REACH...
NOW FIRE, GREY!
WHHHH
HERE GOES--

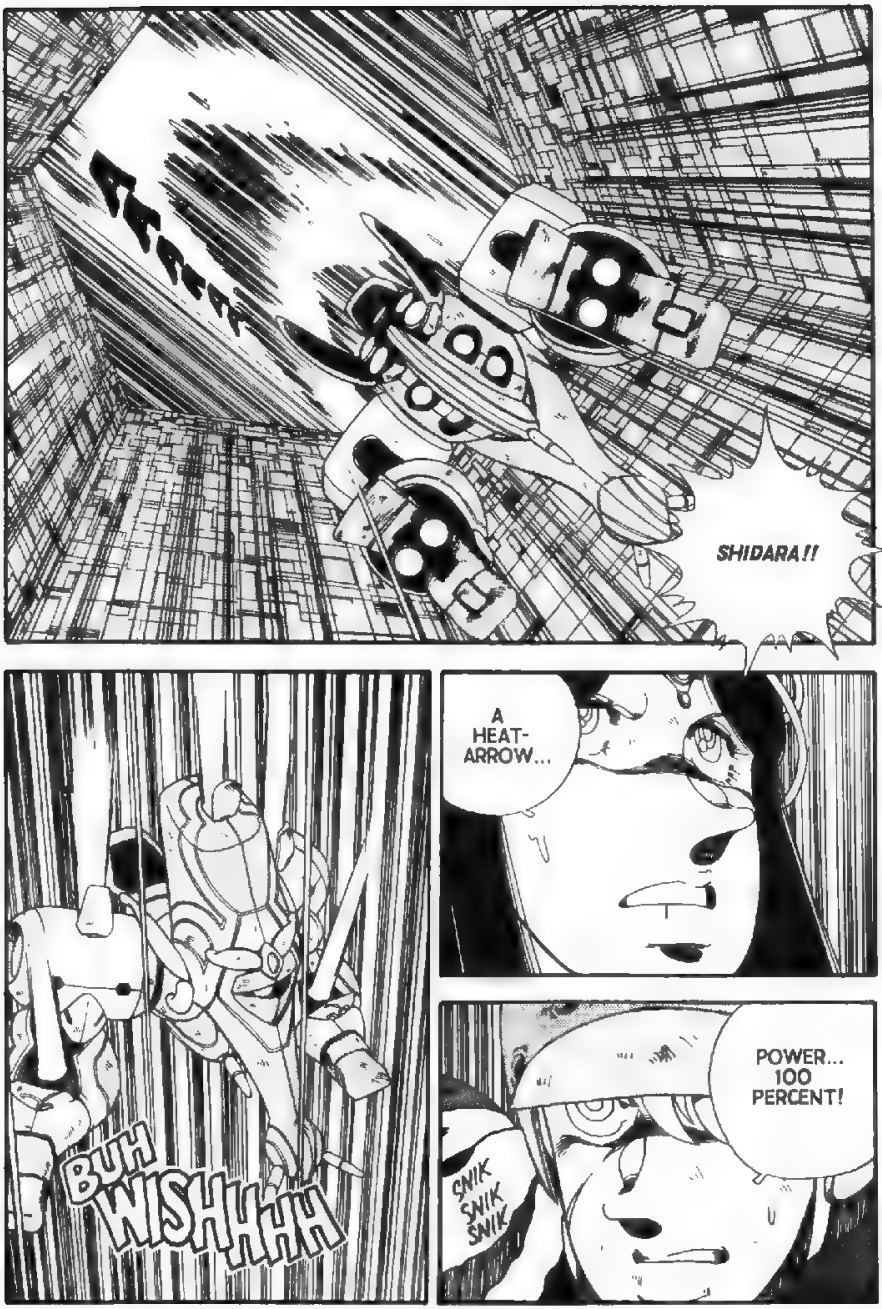
YA!
ZUZUZUZUZU
LET'S JUMP IN, GREY!
VWAH
ROGER!

BUT HOW YOU GONNA FIND THE COMPUTER ROOM?
BOOM
WE'RE BOTH *HALFLINGS*, GREY...
AND THE COMPUTER ROOM IS A HIGH-ELECTRON CENTER...
VREEE
DOESN'T SHIDARA KNOW...
NO.
*UP, GREY! UP!*
SO WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ IT ON OUR SENSORS.
VWAH

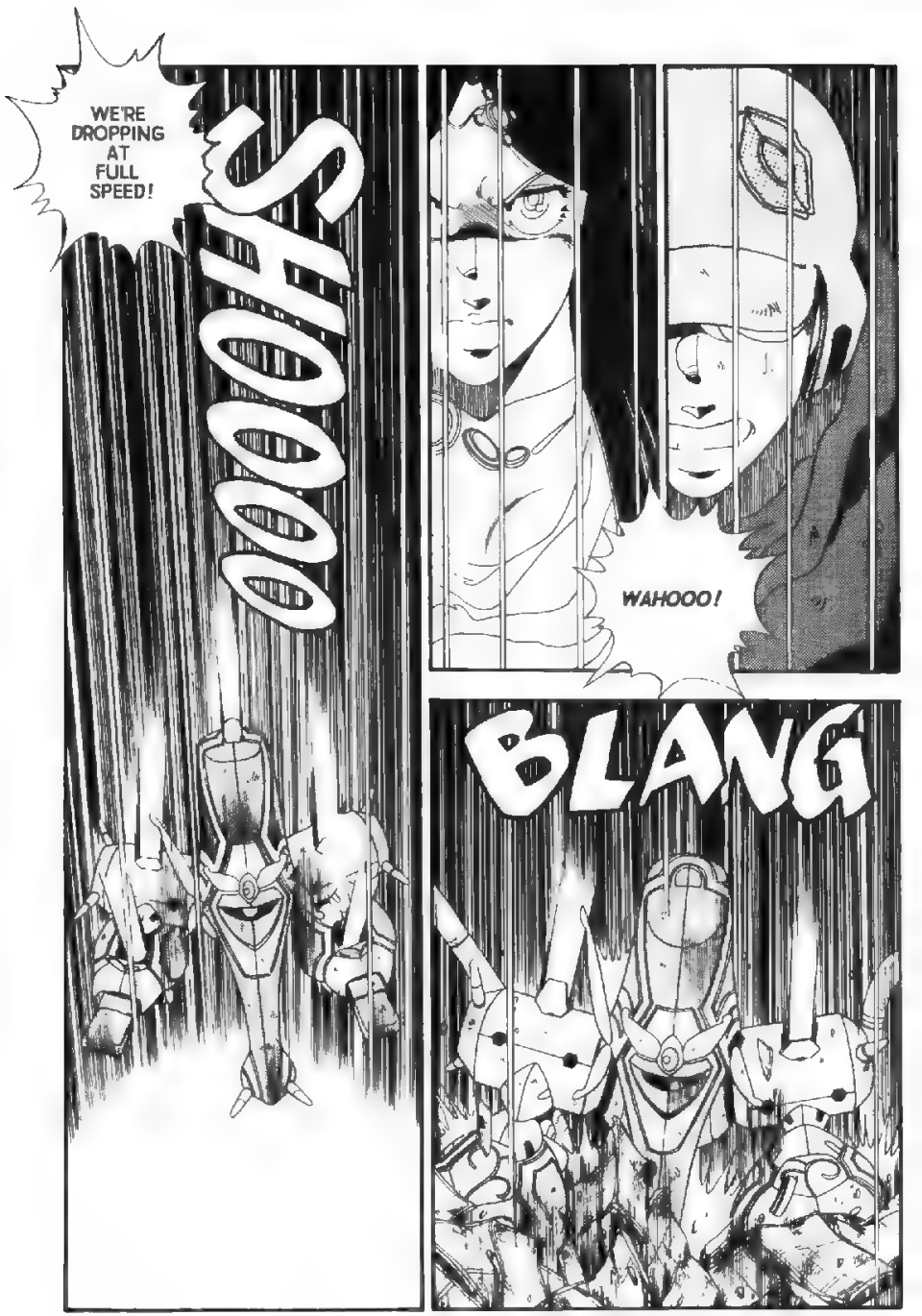
OUR POWER'S STILL DOWN!
IT TAKES ABOUT FIVE MINUTES TO RECHARGE!
ZHAP
UHH!
!!
EYEW
96
BOOM


PYEW
WHOMP
ZHAH
SHIDARA! BEHIND YOU!
beeeee
HANG ON, GREY! A LITTLE LONGER!
JUST A LITTLE MORE, GREY! THE POWER'S BUILDING!
YOU TALK LIKE I'M GIVING UP.


WE MADE IT, GREY!
YAH
96
THE COMPUTER ROOM FLOOR!
TIK TIK TIK
WHOW!
96
!!
HEAT-- AR--


SHIDARA!!
A HEAT-ARROW...
POWER... 100 PERCENT!
SNIK SNIK SNIK
BUH WISHHHH

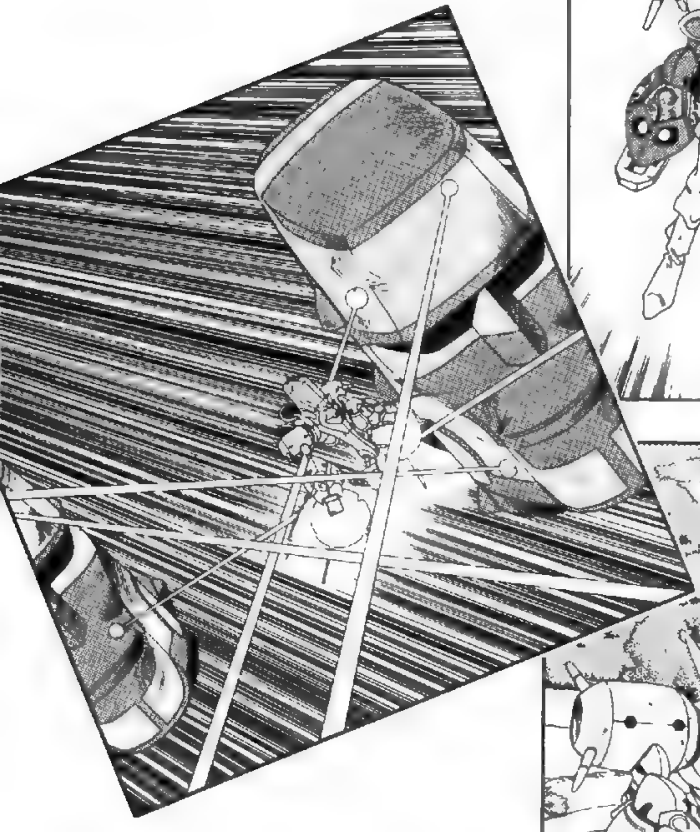
GREY... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MMMMM
AVENGING SHIDARA.
WMMM
HANG ONTO YOUR STOMACH...

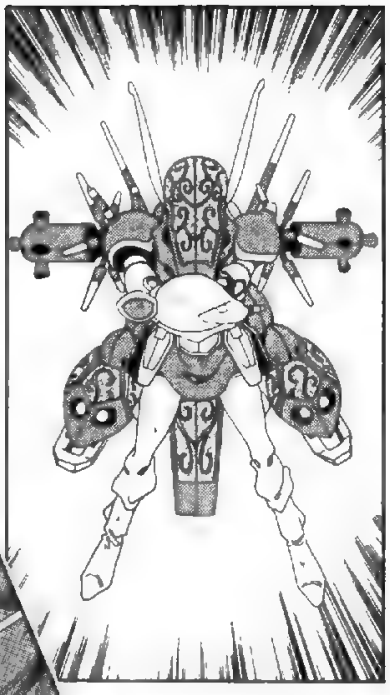

WE'RE DROPPING AT FULL SPEED!
SHOOO
WAHOOO!
BLANG

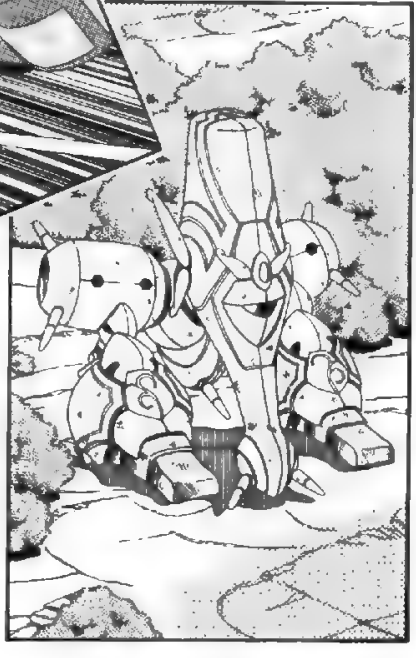
KROM
VROOO
KSHHHH
DID IT.

GREY...
GREY, I WAS...
B-B-B-B-B-B-
DIDN'T GET SICK, DID YOU?
I WAS... TOWN 424'S INFORMATION DOLL...
B-B-B-B-
I WAS "SURE."

# Approach Ten: The City, Part 1



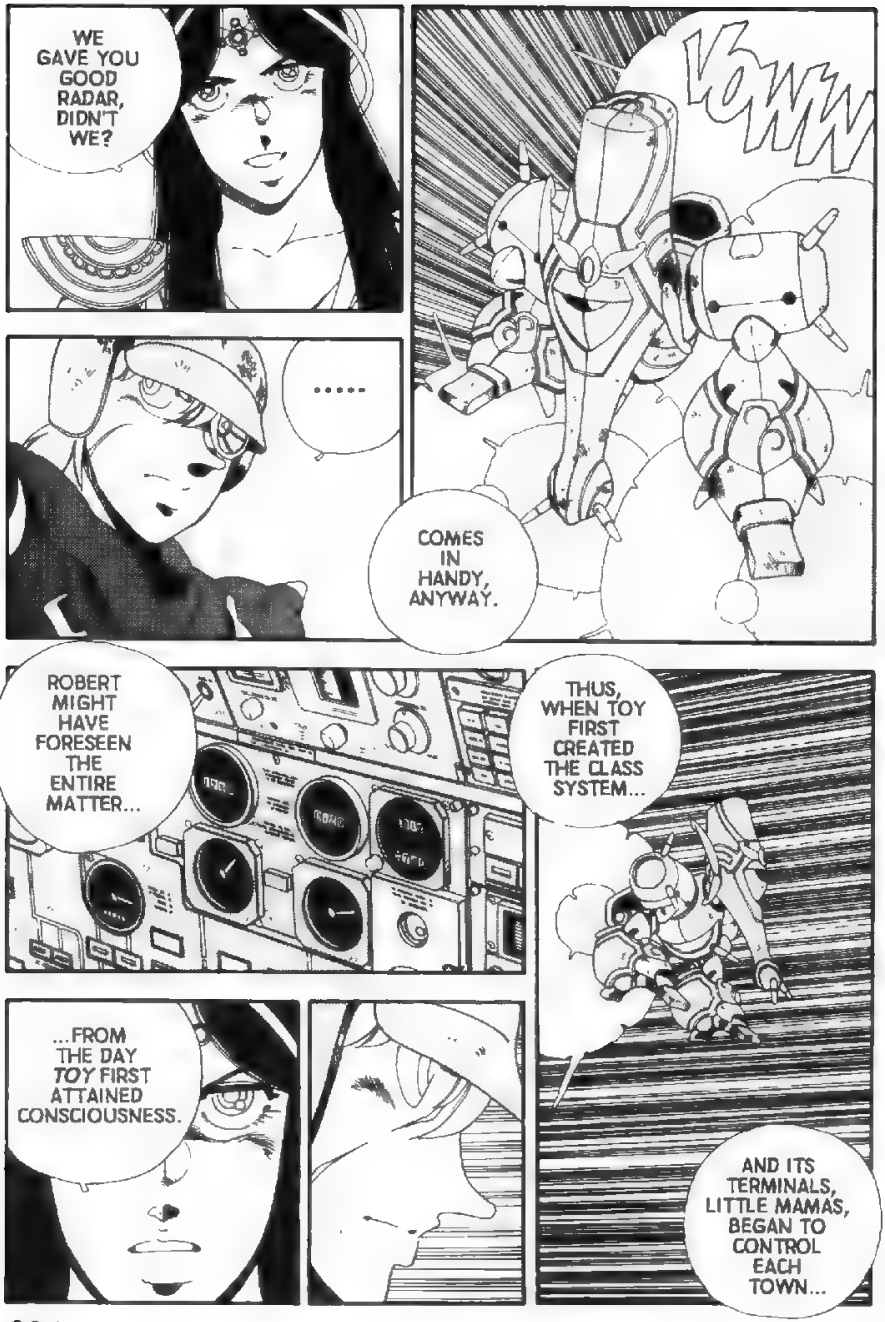




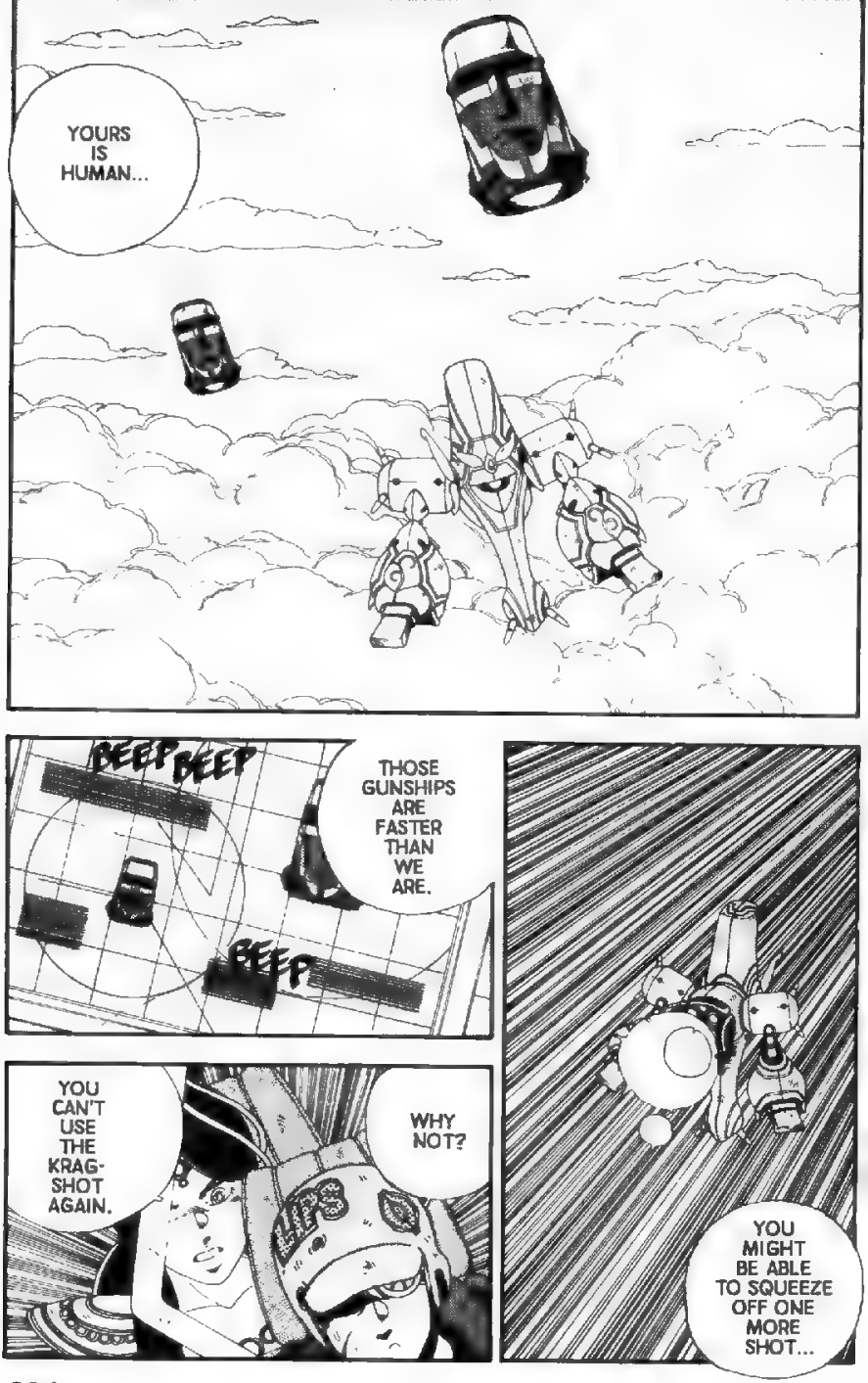
ZM ZM ZM ZM
"SURE?"
.....

WHAT IS IT?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A MACHINE.

ONLY MY BRAIN AND A SMALL PART OF MY CHEST ARE MECHANICAL.
SO THE REST IS HUMAN... FROM THE *REAL* LARA.
THE *"REAL"* LARA WAS SHIDARA'S LOVER...
SHE WAS ONE OF THOSE KILLED BY THE LITTLE MAMA THAT WENT OUT OF CONTROL.
SHIDARA COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE HER DIE-- AND MADE HER A DOLL.
NO. A MACHINE DOESN'T FEEL SUCH THINGS.
YOU MEAN SHIDARA WAS *PROGRAMMED* TO--
ALL OF IT WAS PROGRAMMED. BY ROBERT J. DIMITRI.
THEY'RE COMING.

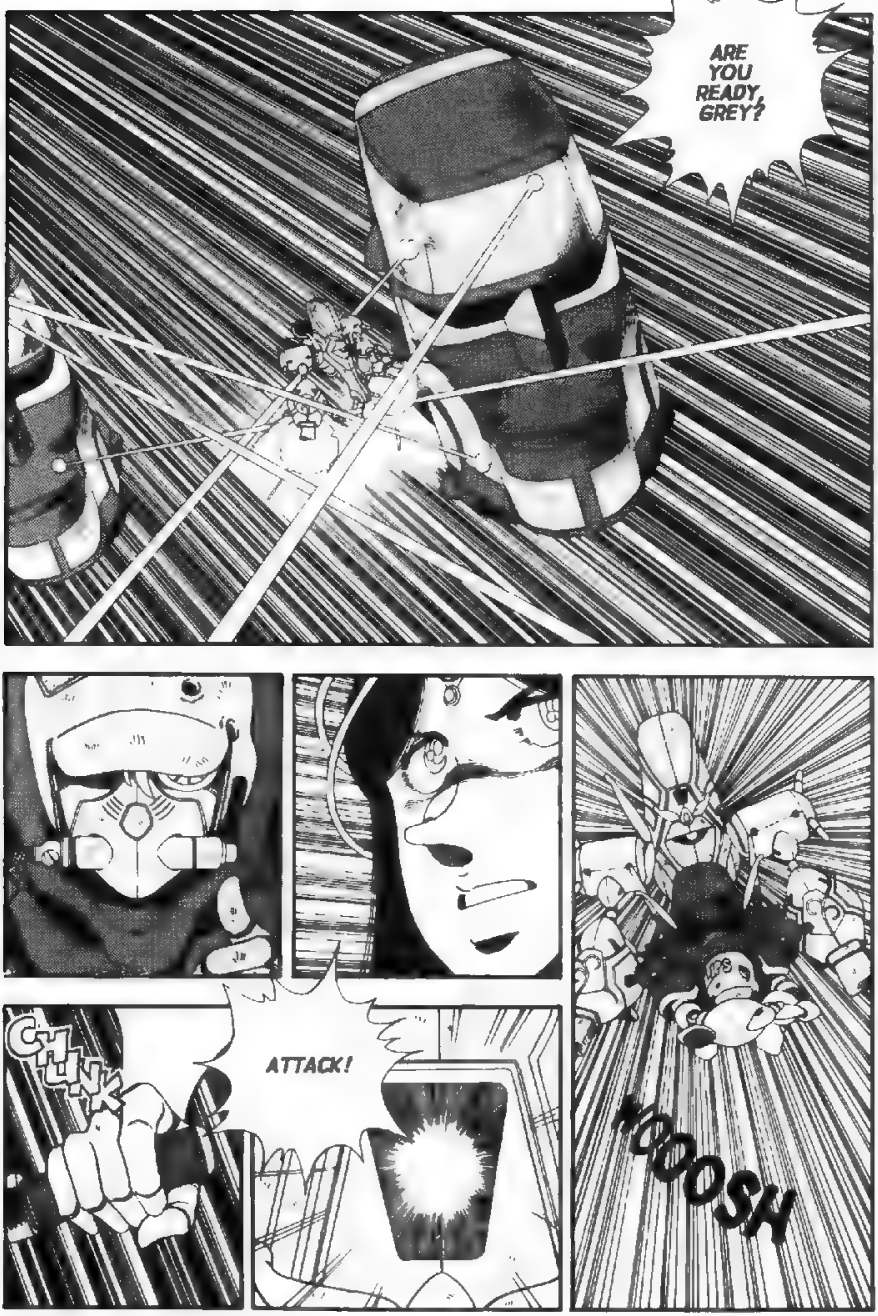

WE GAVE YOU GOOD RADAR, DIDN'T WE?
VOWW
.....
COMES IN HANDY, ANYWAY.
ROBERT MIGHT HAVE FORESEEN THE ENTIRE MATTER...
THUS, WHEN TOY FIRST CREATED THE CLASS SYSTEM...
...FROM THE DAY *TOY* FIRST ATTAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.
AND ITS TERMINALS, LITTLE MAMAS, BEGAN TO CONTROL EACH TOWN...

ROBERT PLACED A DUPLICATE OF HIMSELF AS A WATCHMAN FOR EACH LITTLE MAMA...
AND SO CREATED ME... *SURE*.
IF ANY LITTLE MAMA WENT OUT OF CONTROL, ITS *SURE* WOULD BE AWAKENED.
TO DESTROY TOY?
NO. TO HELP A *MAN* WHO MIGHT DESTROY TOY.
BNNNNN
BNNNNN
I'M A HALFLING. NOT A MAN.
I AM A HALFLING, TOO...
BUT I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU, GREY.
MY MIND IS A MACHINE.

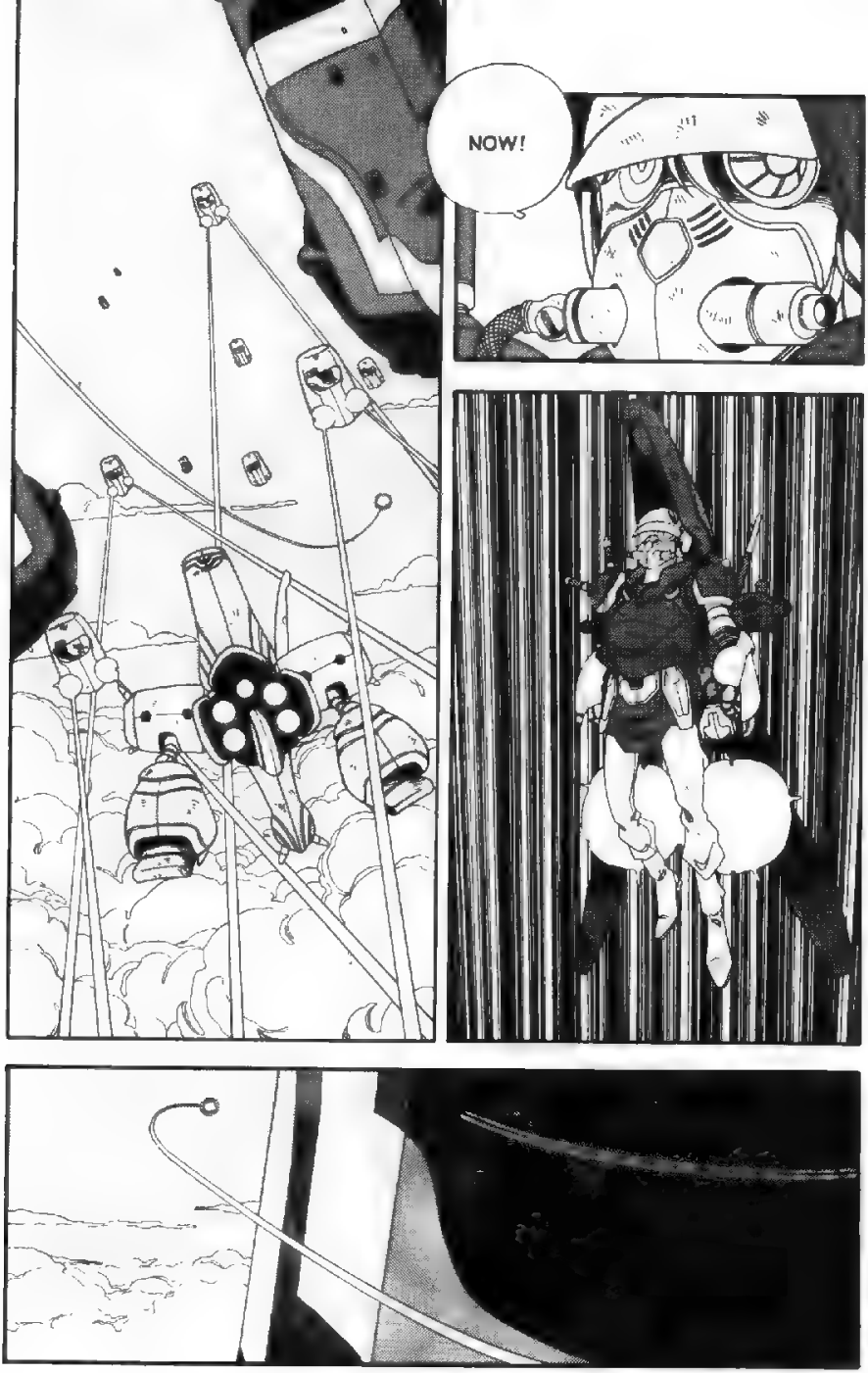

YOURS IS HUMAN...
BEEP BEEP
BEEP
THOSE GUNSHIPS ARE FASTER THAN WE ARE.
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE OFF ONE MORE SHOT...
YOU CAN'T USE THE KRAG-SHOT AGAIN.
WHY NOT?

BUT WE'LL FLY TO PIECES IN MID-AIR.
WE STILL HAVE...
...ONE OPTION, GREY.
IT'S HOPELESS, ISN'T IT?
NAGOSHI'S HIGHEST TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT... ISN'T THIS GARUDA.
IT'S *YOU*, GREY.
YOUR POWER IS *FAR* GREATER THAN THIS GARUDA'S.

THERE'S A FLIGHT-PACK YOU CAN USE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CALIBRATED FOR SHIDARA.
YOUR BODY WILL KNOW HOW.
HOW DO I USE THIS FLIGHT-PACK?
NOW HURRY... THEY'RE CLOSE.
I'LL LAUNCH YOU WHEN THEY REACH 3000 METERS. ALL RIGHT?
WHICH ONE DO I HIT FIRST?
AND I'LL COVER YOU.
THE *RIGHT.*


ARE YOU READY, GREY?
CHUNK
ATTACK!
WOOOSH

KLAK
TRY TO SLIP UNDER THE GUNSHIP!
I'LL LEAVE 'EM TO YOU.
ROGER!
MINI-PLANES ATTACKING!

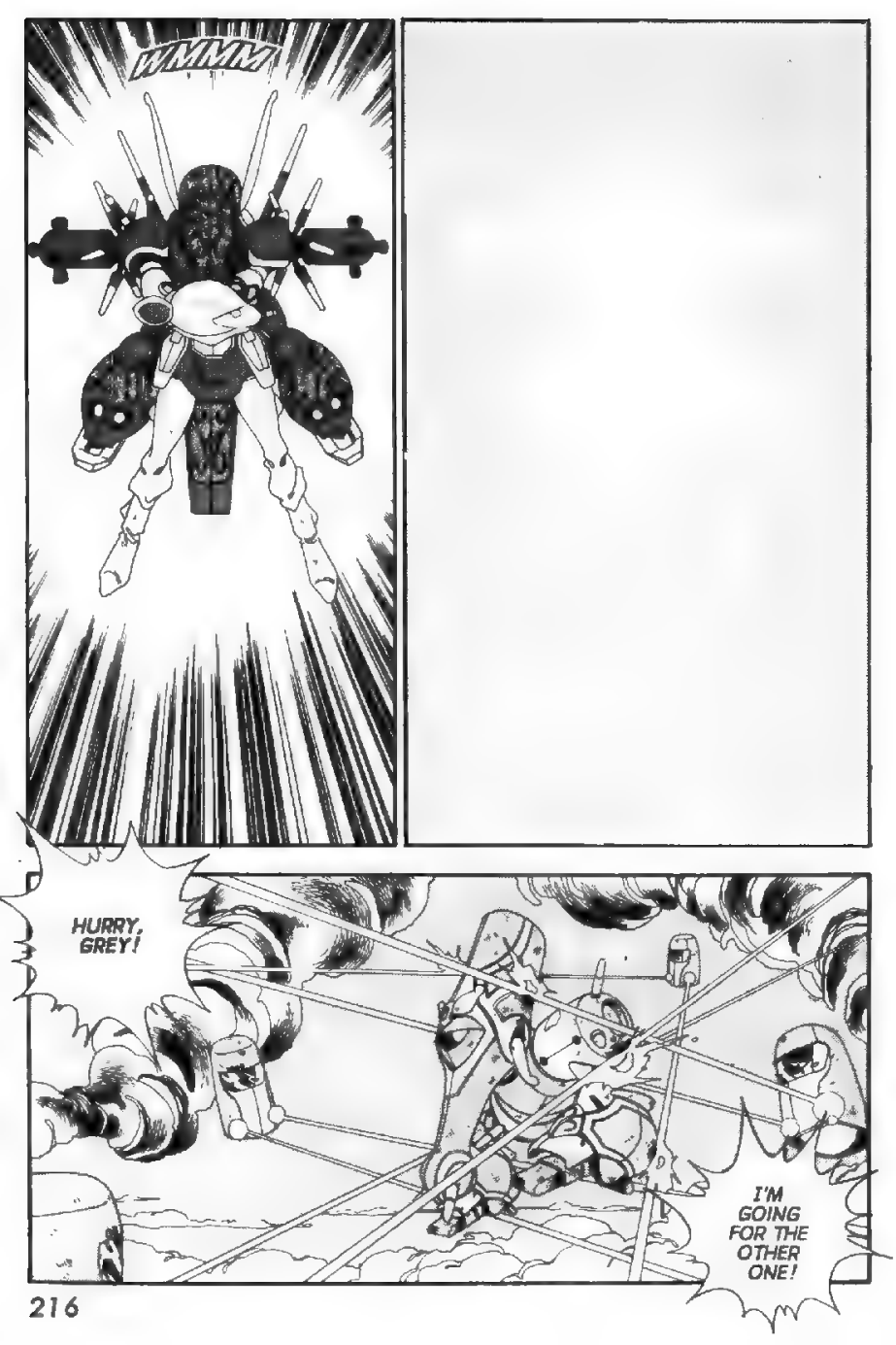

NOW!

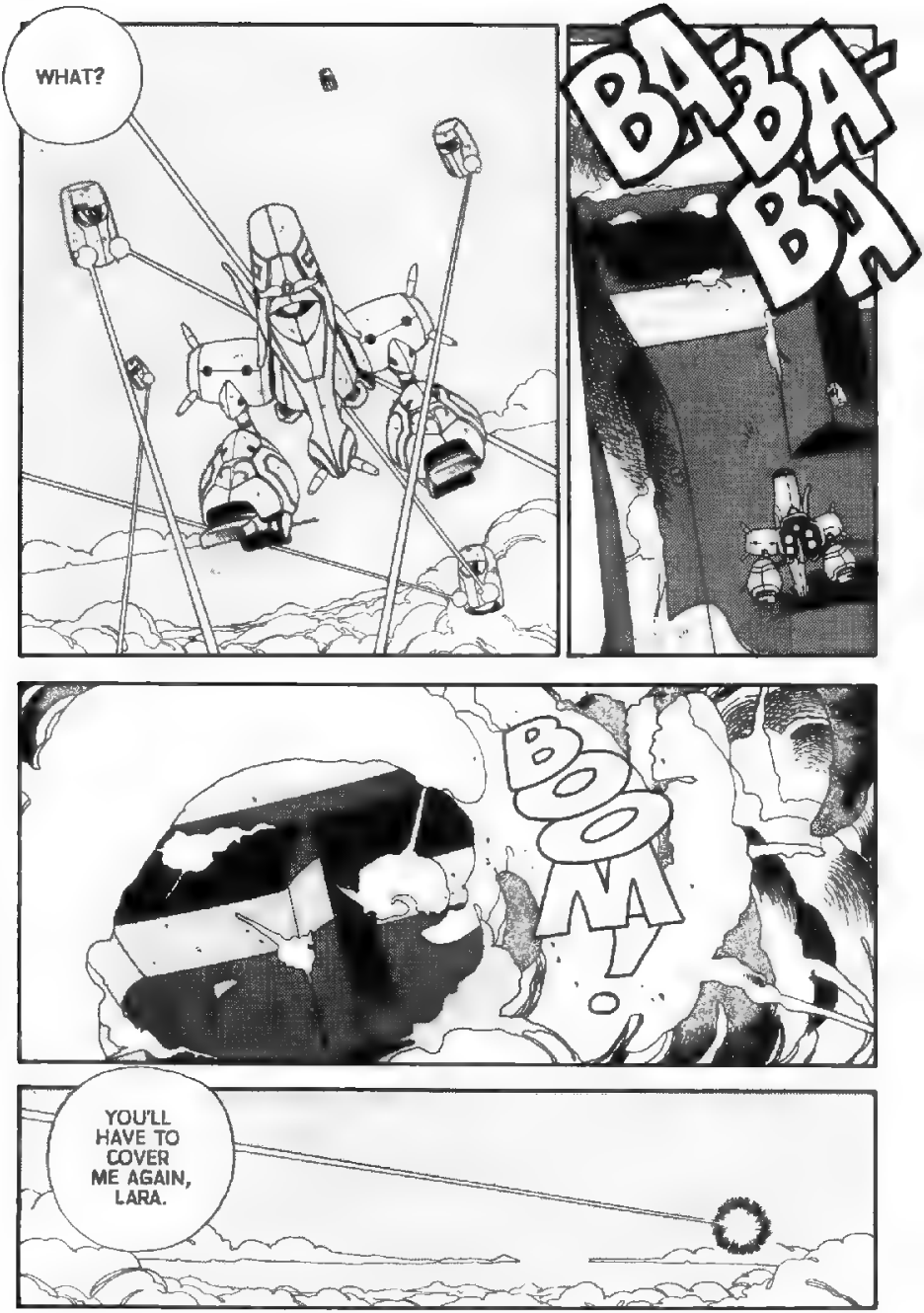
GREAT...
WAH!!
5370
WOOSH
HI.
BYOW

5370
BOOM
NICE BODY I GOT...
FYOW
WHOOM
1470
.....
POK
KRAKL KRAKL KRAKL
HUH... NO PILOT.

WHA--?!
BOM!
DAMN YOU!
PYEW
ZHAP
GREY!!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME-- HURRY!
I CAN'T HOLD THEM MUCH LONGER!
I'LL BE THERE! SAVE YOUR OWN PRETTY ASS!
WHY, GREY! YOU MAKE ME BLUSH!

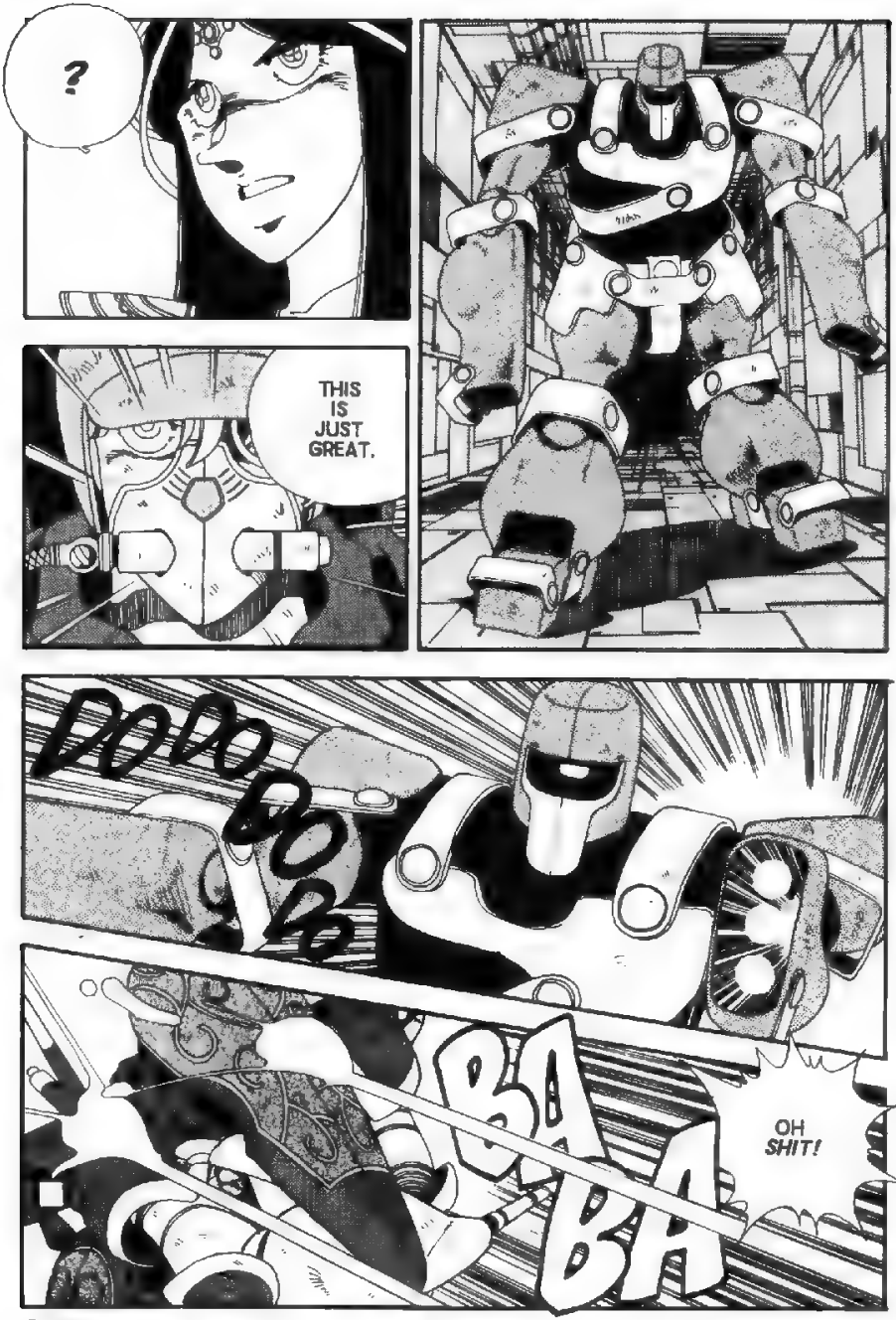
HARD TO PICTURE A MACHINE BLUSHING.
I STILL HAVE A WOMAN'S BODY.
UH HUH. AND DOES IT DO EVERYTHING A WOMAN'S BODY SHOULD?
WHOMP
DON'T BE CRUDE!
REMIND ME TO STOP TRYING TO JOKE WITH MACHINES.
VSHHH
TIK TIK
TOO SLOW!

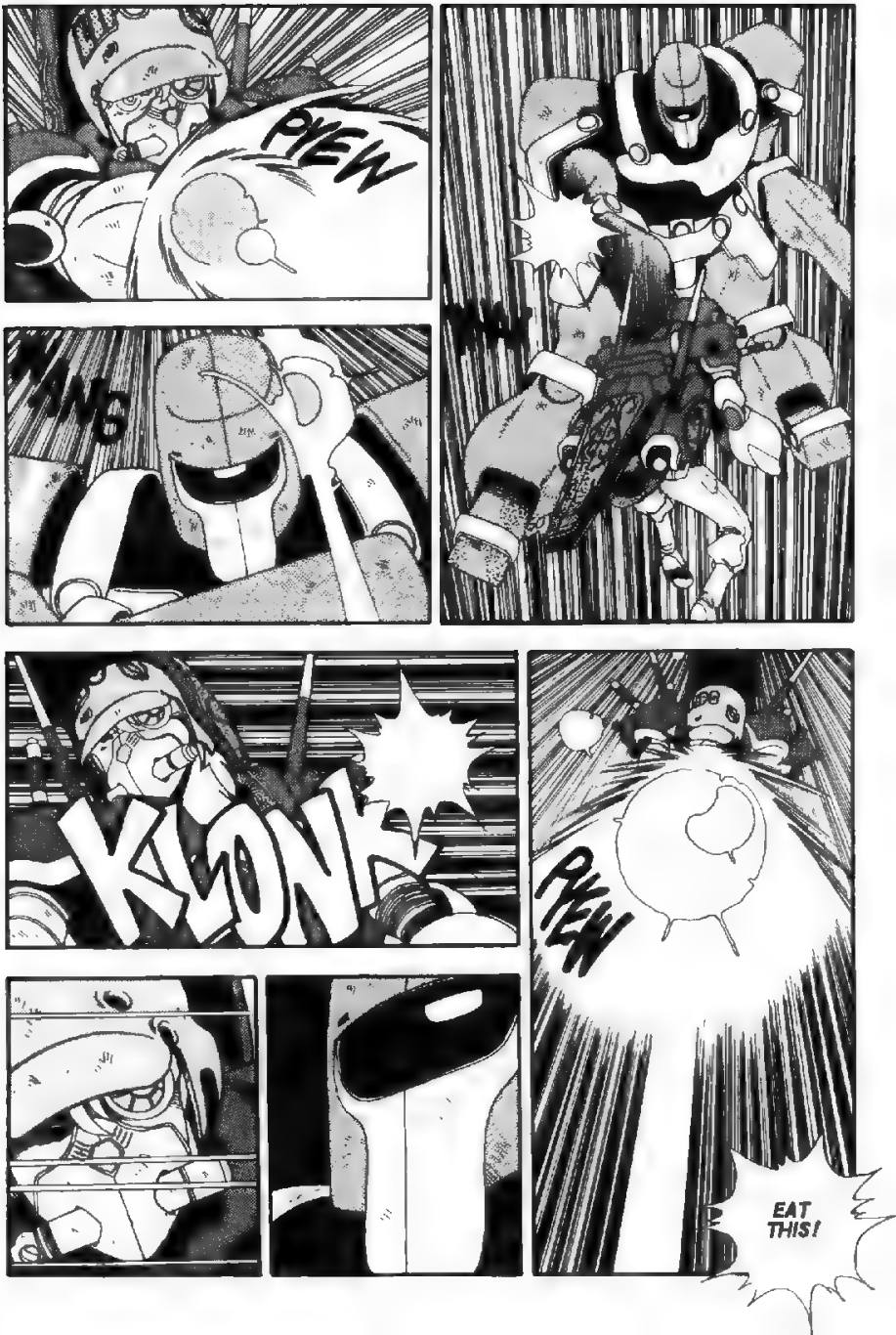

WMMM
HURRY, GREY!
I'M GOING FOR THE OTHER ONE!

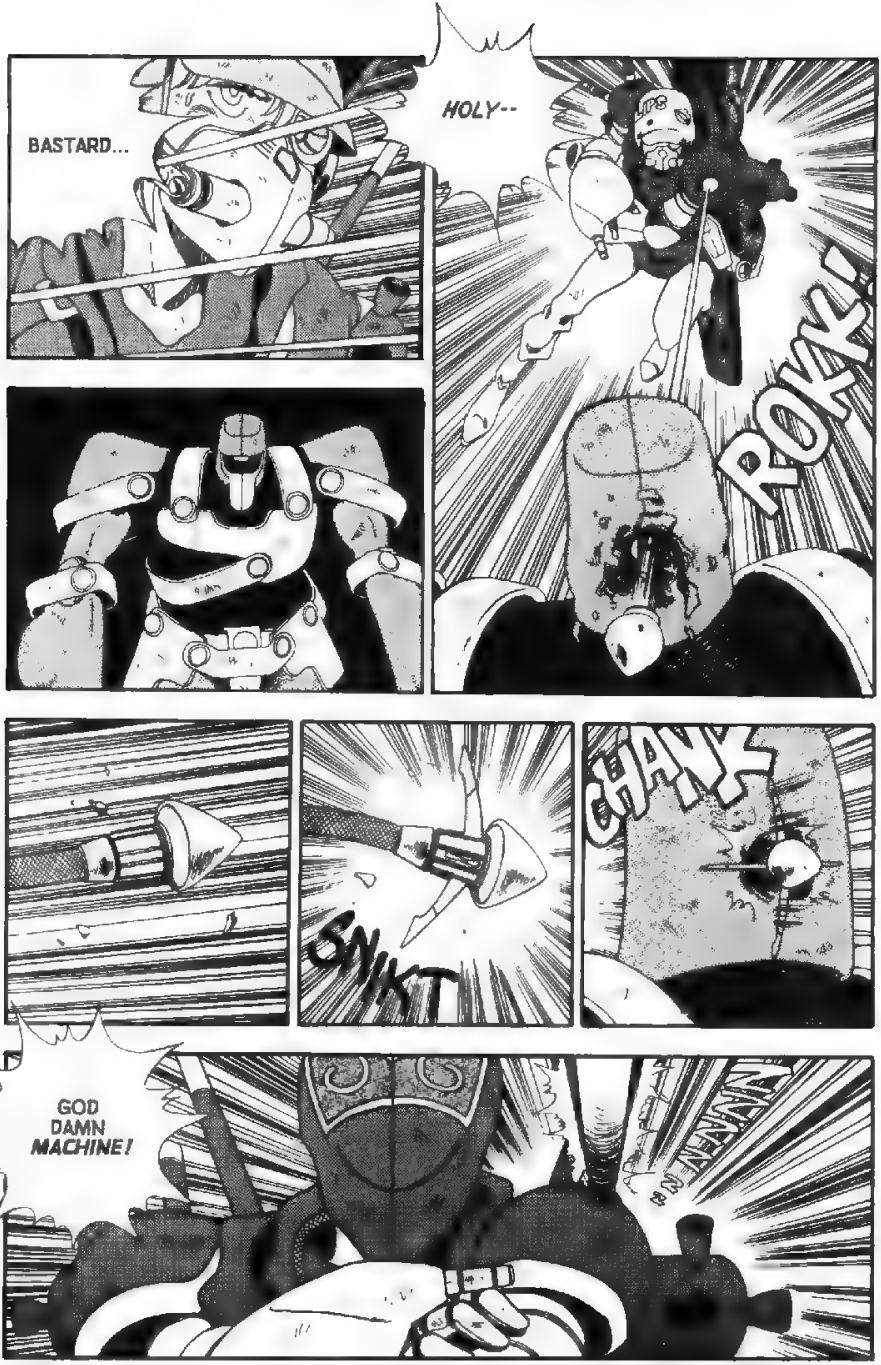

WHAT?
BA-BA-BA
BOOM
YOU'LL HAVE TO COVER ME AGAIN, LARA.

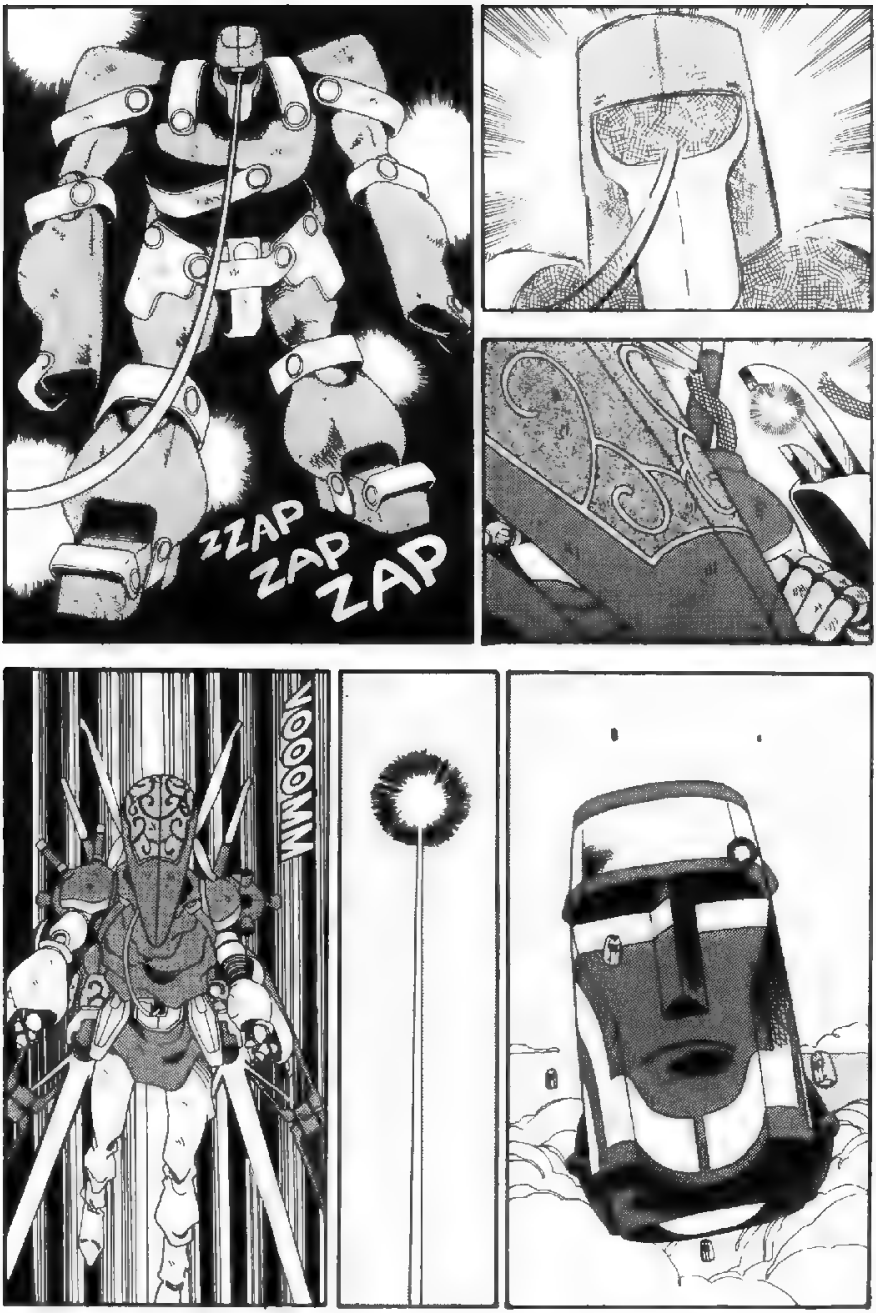
BM
BM
BM
BM
BM
FLY RIGHT OVER THE GUNSHIP!
THE DEAD SPOT IS DIRECTLY ABOVE IT.
ALL RIGHT...
OKAY, THAT'S GOOD, GOOD...
STAY RIGHT OVER IT...

ZHOOM
5770
BYOW
IT'S THE SAME DAMN PATTERN!
PYEW
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THEM, GREY!
BAM
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN...
TOY ISN'T SO EASY TO DEAL WITH!

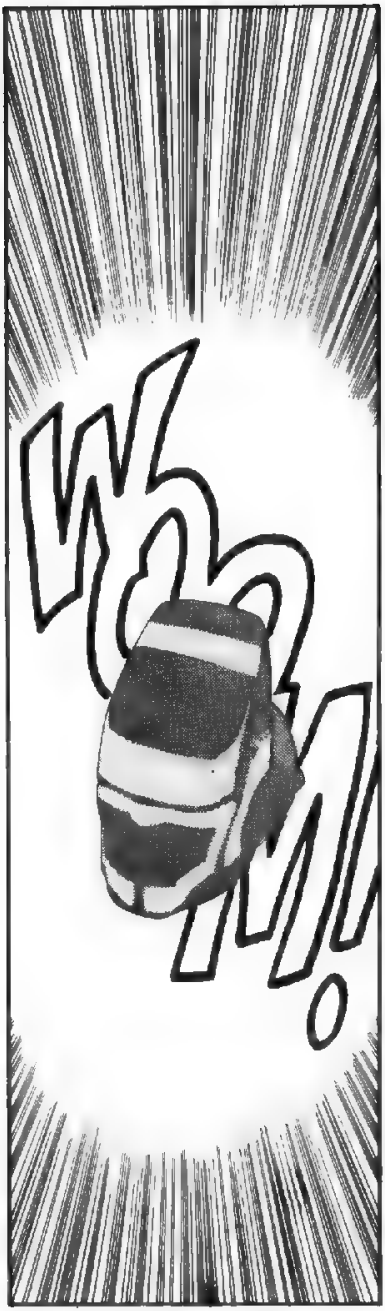

?
THIS IS JUST GREAT.
DOOOOO
BA BA
OH SHIT!

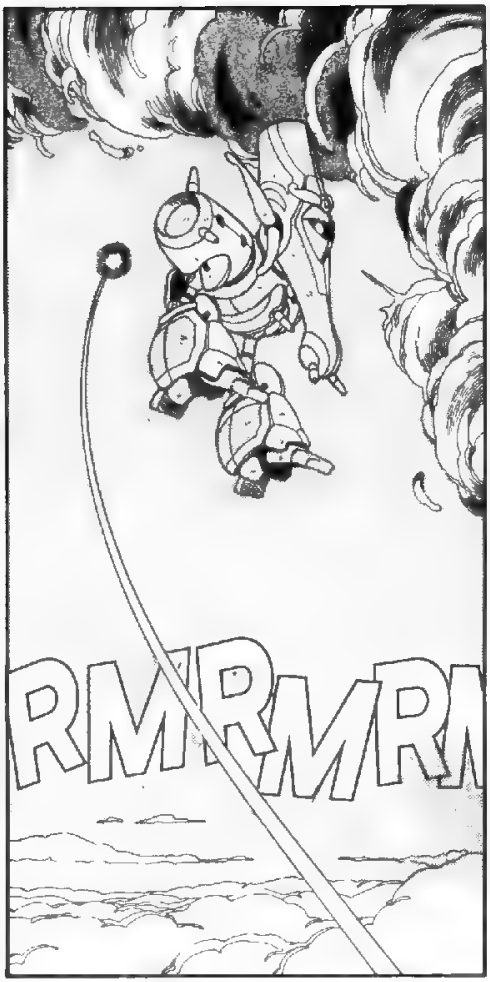

PYEW
KLONK
PYEW
EAT THIS!

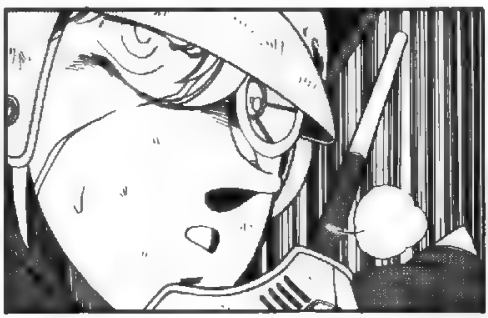

BASTARD...
HOLY--
ROK!
SNIKT
CHAK
GOD DAMN MACHINE!
NNNNNN

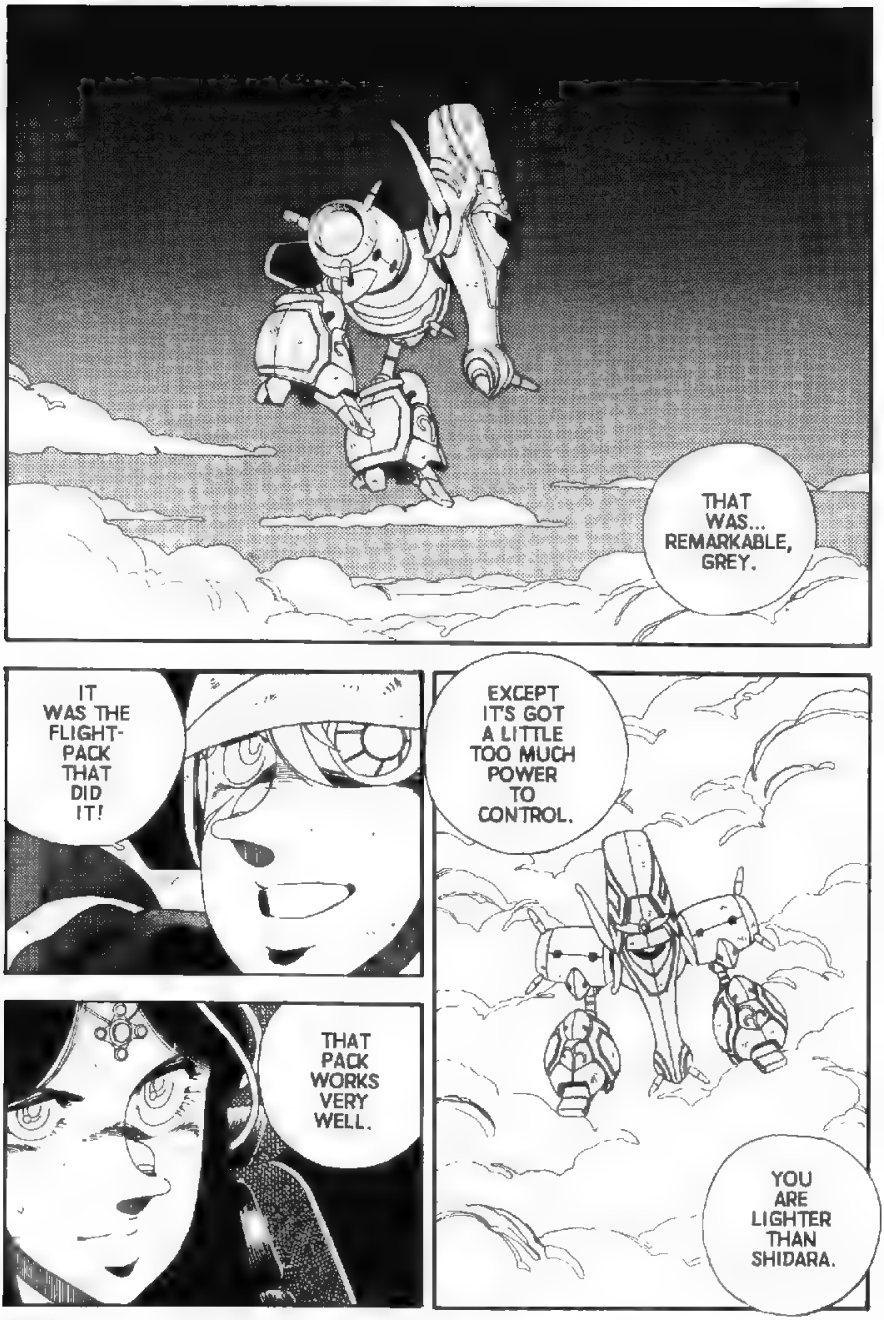

ZZAP
ZAP
ZAP
WWOOOM

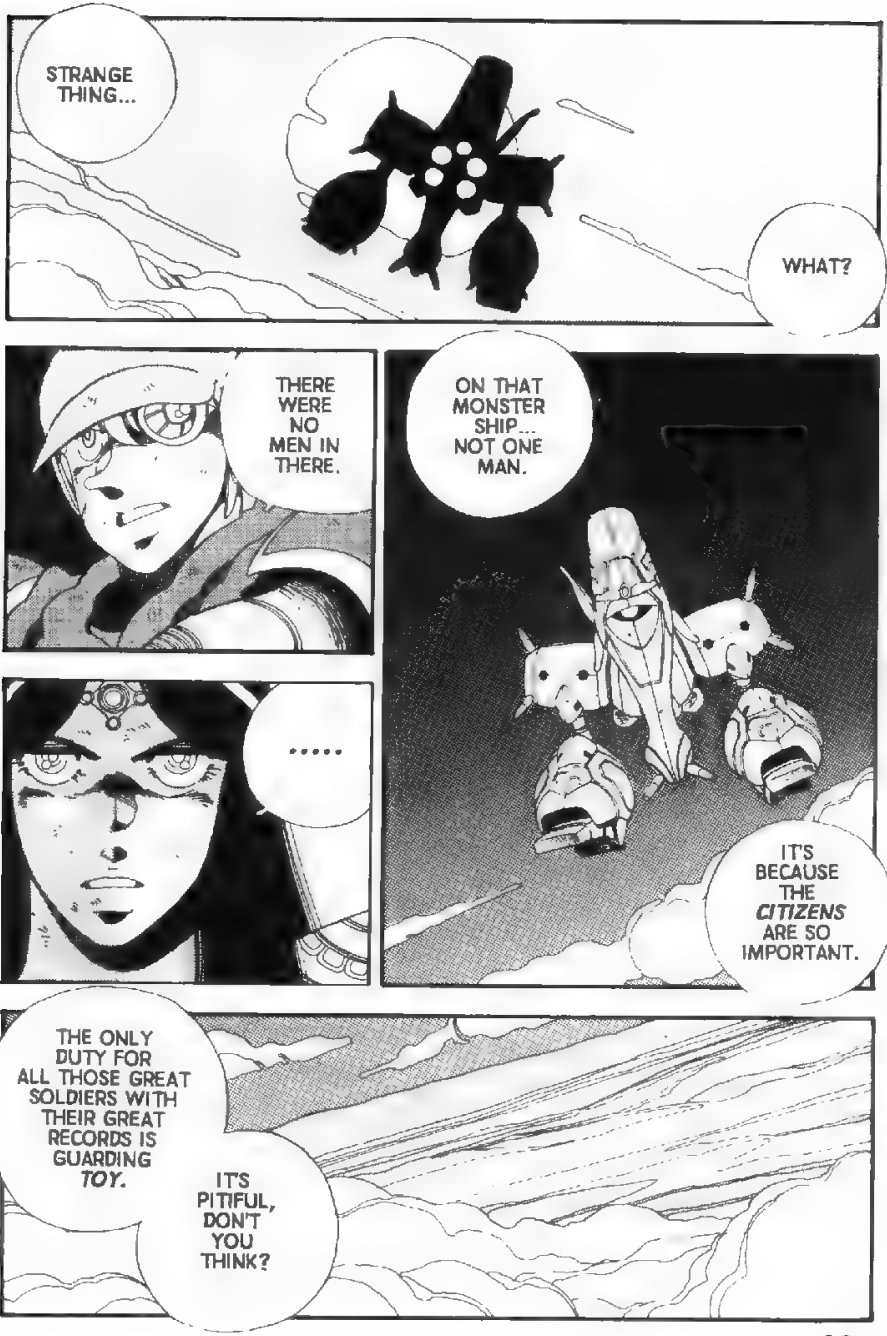
GREY!
SHAKE IT!
CLEAR OUT, LARA!
FOOSH
BM


WHM!


RMRMRM

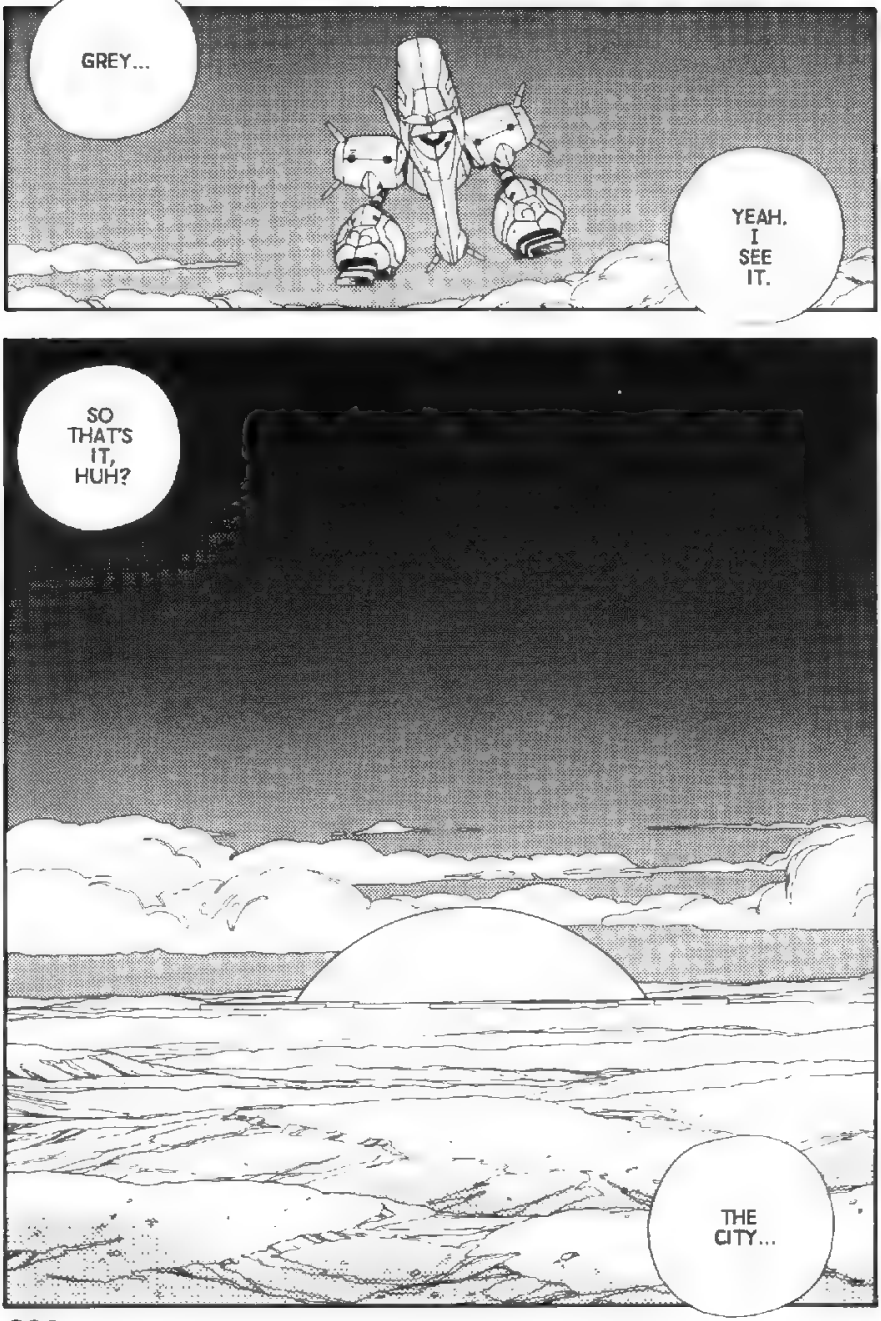



THAT WAS... REMARKABLE, GREY.
IT WAS THE FLIGHT-PACK THAT DID IT!
EXCEPT IT'S GOT A LITTLE TOO MUCH POWER TO CONTROL.
THAT PACK WORKS VERY WELL.
YOU ARE LIGHTER THAN SHIDARA.

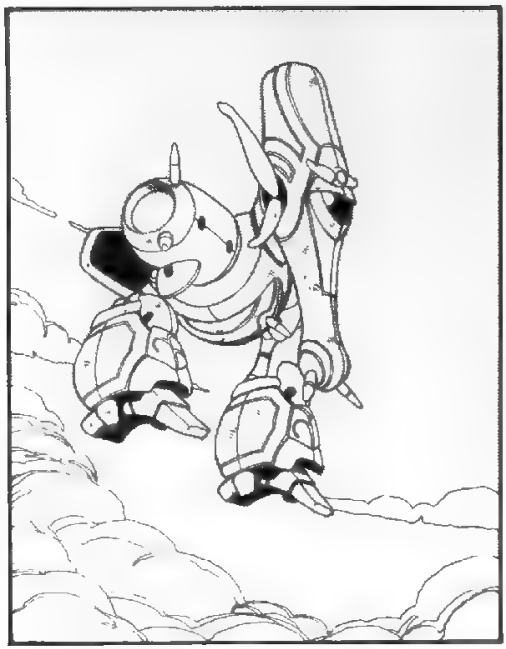

STRANGE THING...
WHAT?
THERE WERE NO MEN IN THERE.
ON THAT MONSTER SHIP... NOT ONE MAN.
.....
IT'S BECAUSE THE *CITIZENS* ARE SO IMPORTANT.
THE ONLY DUTY FOR ALL THOSE GREAT SOLDIERS WITH THEIR GREAT RECORDS IS GUARDING *TOY*.
IT'S PITIFUL, DON'T YOU THINK?

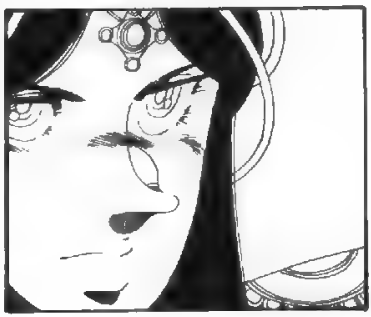
NO ONE WANTS TO FIGHT, AND YET...
...THEY CAN ONLY, FINALLY, BECOME CITIZENS...
AFTER BATTLE AFTER BATTLE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.
BUT IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
?
"NO ONE WANTS TO FIGHT," HUH?
ISN'T IT JUST THAT NOBODY WANTS TO *LOSE*... TO GET KILLED?
IF IT'S AN OPPONENT YOU KNOW FOR SURE YOU CAN BEAT...
THEN DON'T YOU REALLY *WANT* TO FIGHT?

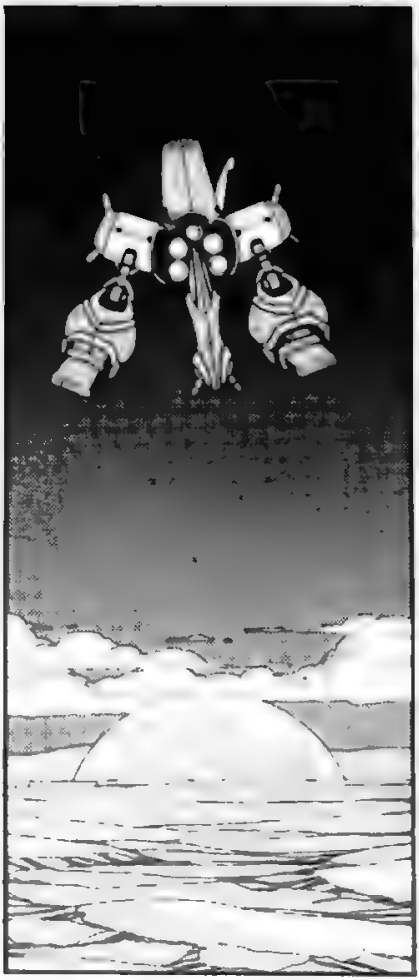
IF YOU CAN PROMISE MEN A VICTORY...
...THEN ISN'T IT TRUE...
...THAT MEN WILL *WANT* WAR?
SO ANYWAY...
EVEN GOING UP AGAINST THOSE CITIZENS, I...

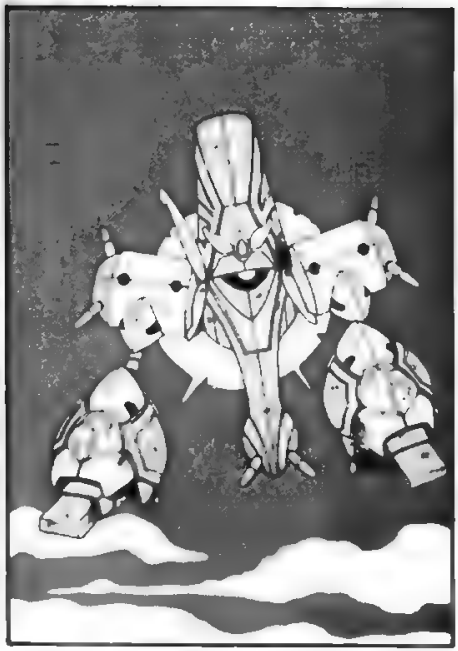

GREY...
YEAH. I SEE IT.
SO THAT'S IT, HUH?
THE CITY...

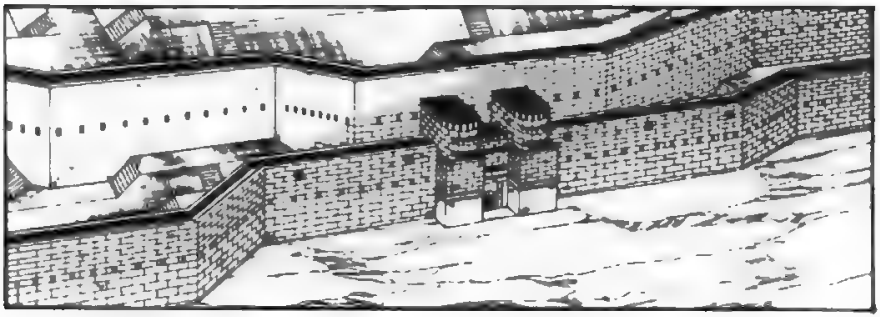
Approach Ten: The City, Part 2

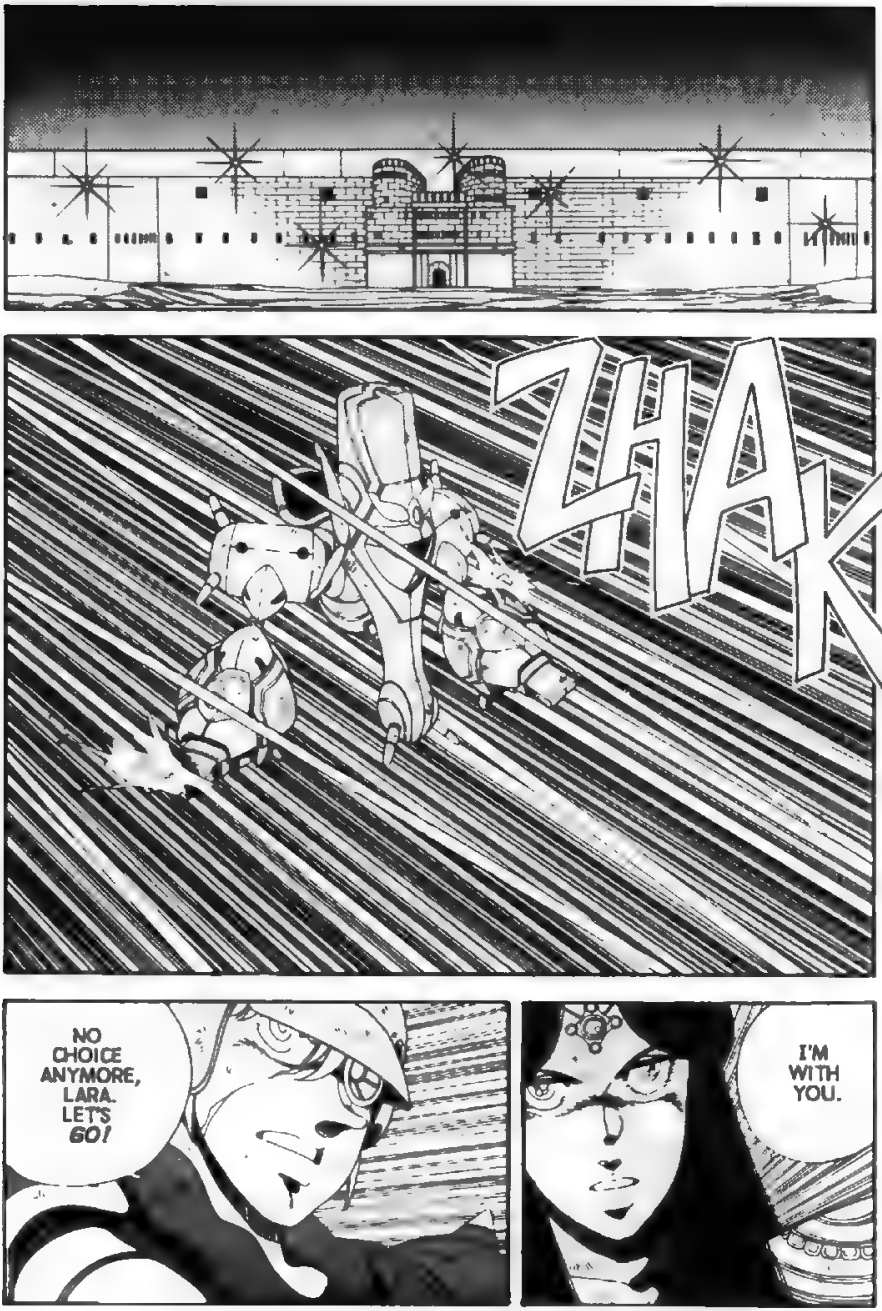


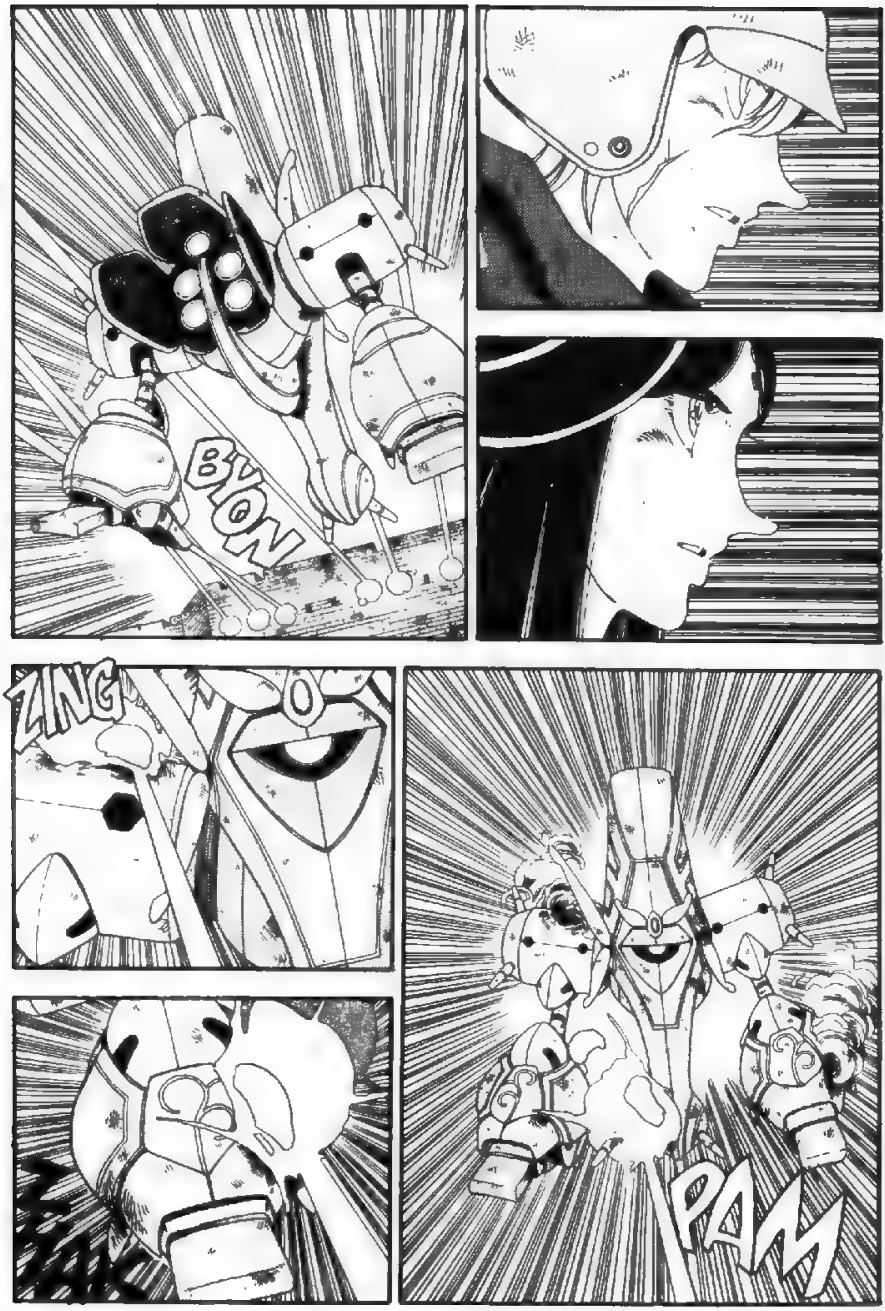






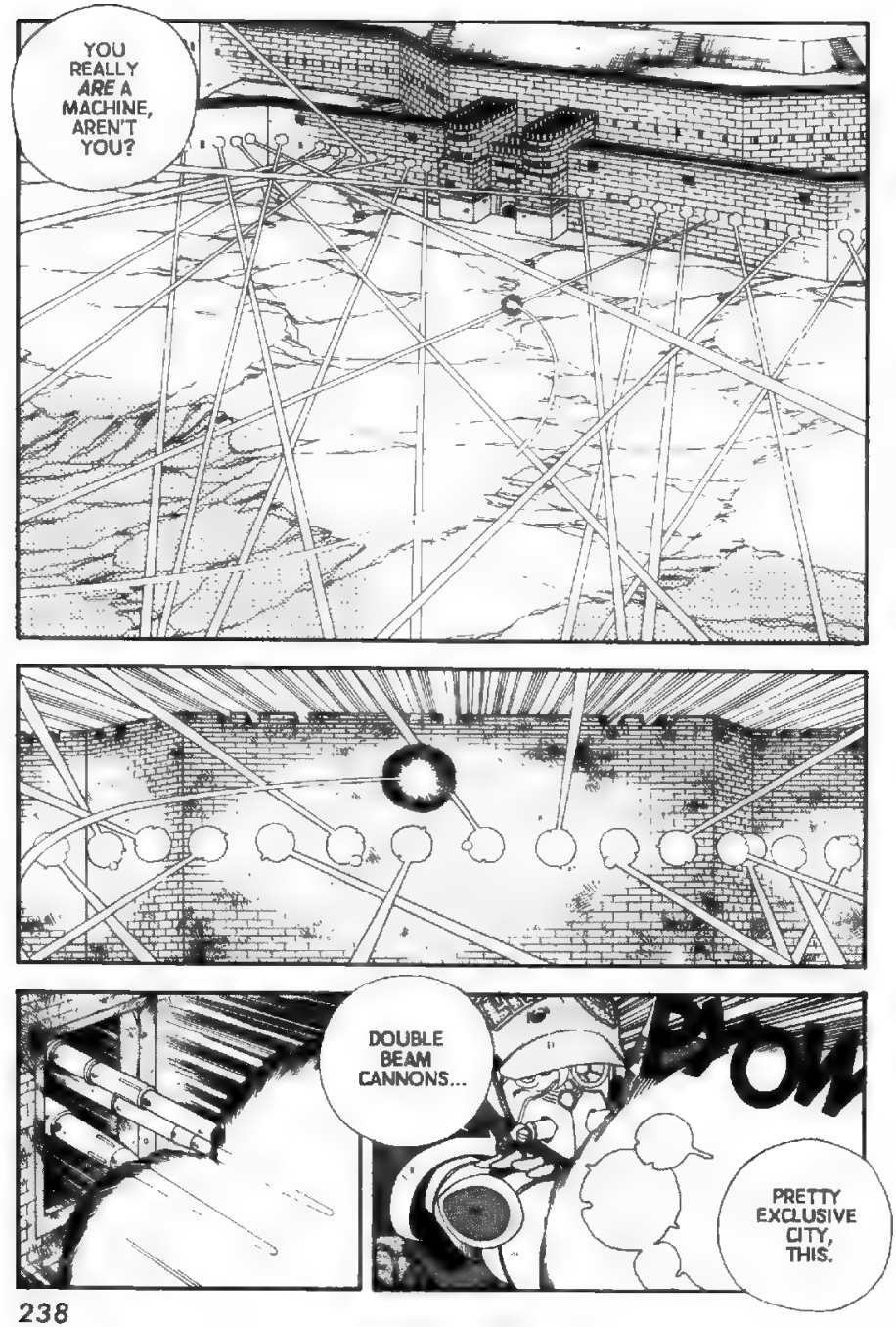



ZHAK
NO CHOICE ANYMORE, LARA. LET'S GO!
I'M WITH YOU.


BYON
ZING
PAM

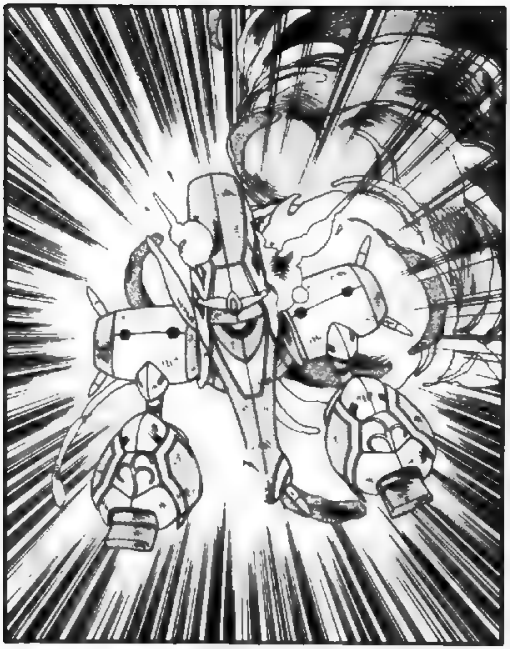
THERE'S NO WAY...
I'VE GOT TO ATTACK FROM *OUTSIDE.*
.....
KEEP CHARGING STRAIGHT, LARA.
I'LL COVER YOU.
ROGER, GREY.
DON'T TRY TOO HARD. THE CITY HAS TWO OUTSIDE WALLS. IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN BREACH 'EM BOTH-- *GIVE UP.*
IN THAT CASE... I'LL JUST CRASH INTO THE WALLS.

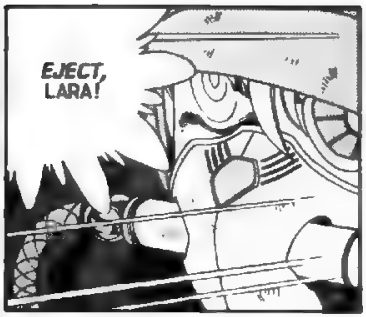
GONNA COMMIT SUICIDE?
I HAVE MY OWN FLIGHT-PACK, GREY.
WELL, ISN'T THAT A COMFORT?
READY TO *EJECT!*
*WHOA!* EJECTED TOO *SOON!*
VWOOSH
NEVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH *THAT* BEFORE.
ASK ANY OF MY GIRL-FRIENDS.
I'M SURE I DON'T CARE.


YOU REALLY *ARE* A MACHINE, AREN'T YOU?
DOUBLE BEAM CANNONS...
PRETTY EXCLUSIVE CITY, THIS.

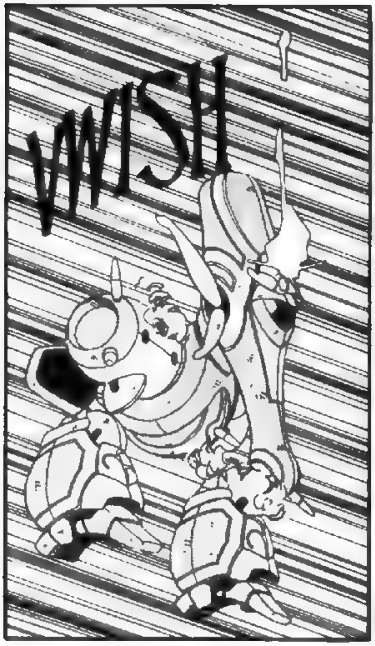
WHUM
BOOM
UH
*HUH.*
I
GET
IT...
THEY'RE DEFENSELESS AGAINST ATTACK FROM THE *SIDE.*
BUH-
WOOM
AND *THAT* MEANS...

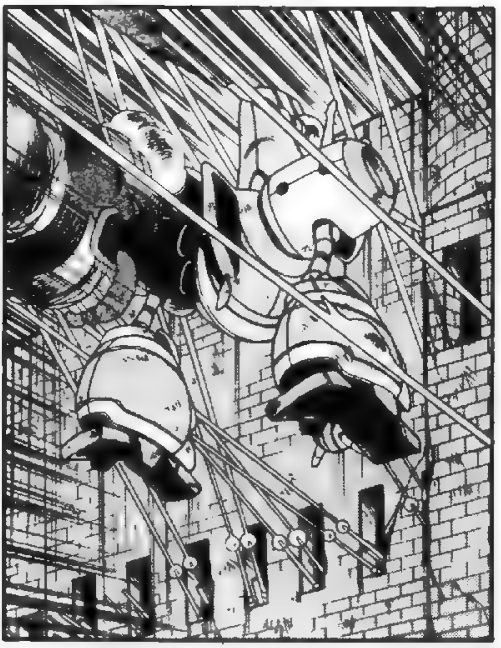
DA DA DA DA
DA DA DA DA
LARA! IT'S...
IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*, LARA!
IT'S TOO LATE TO GIVE UP!



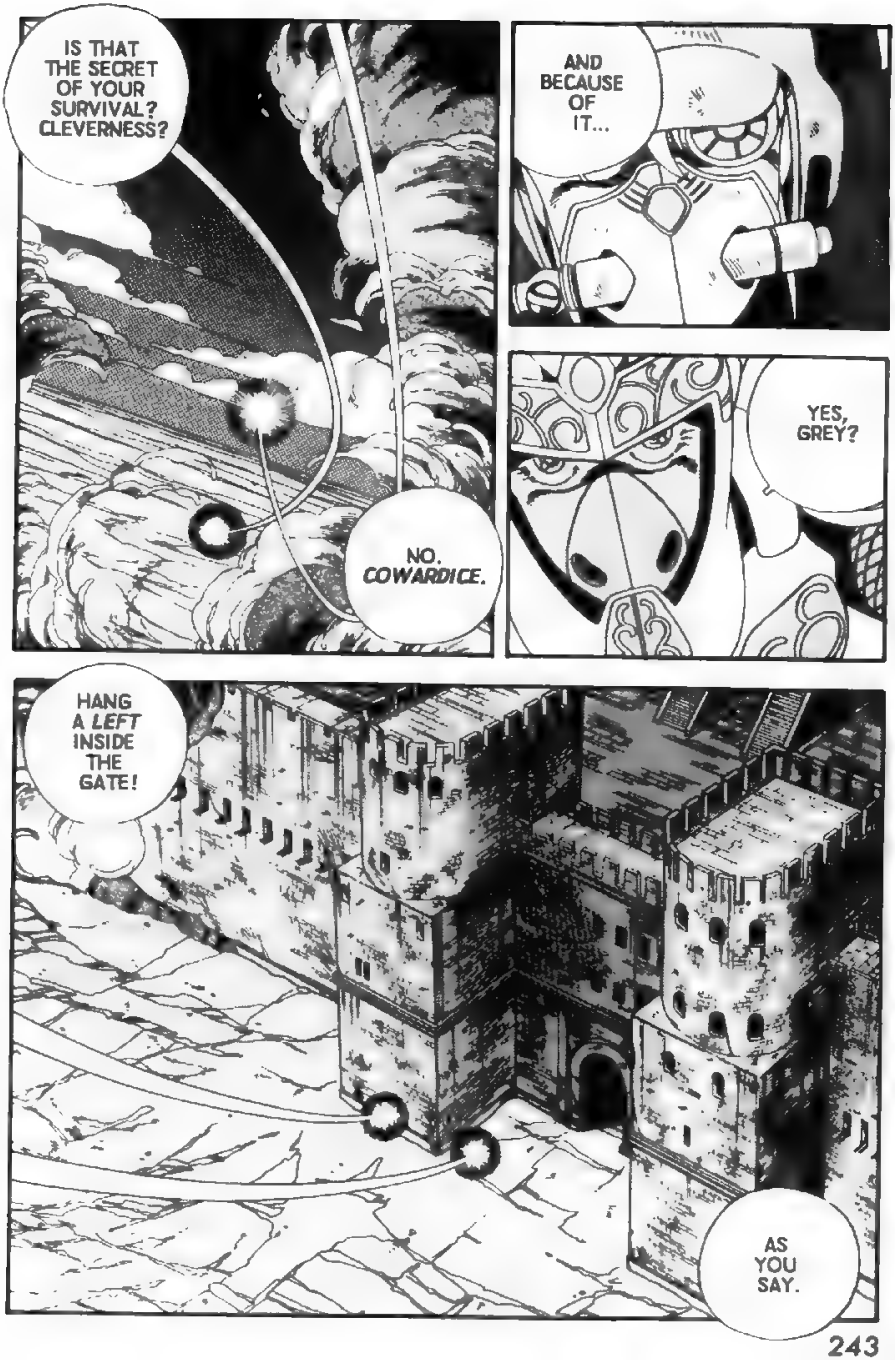

EJECT, LARA!

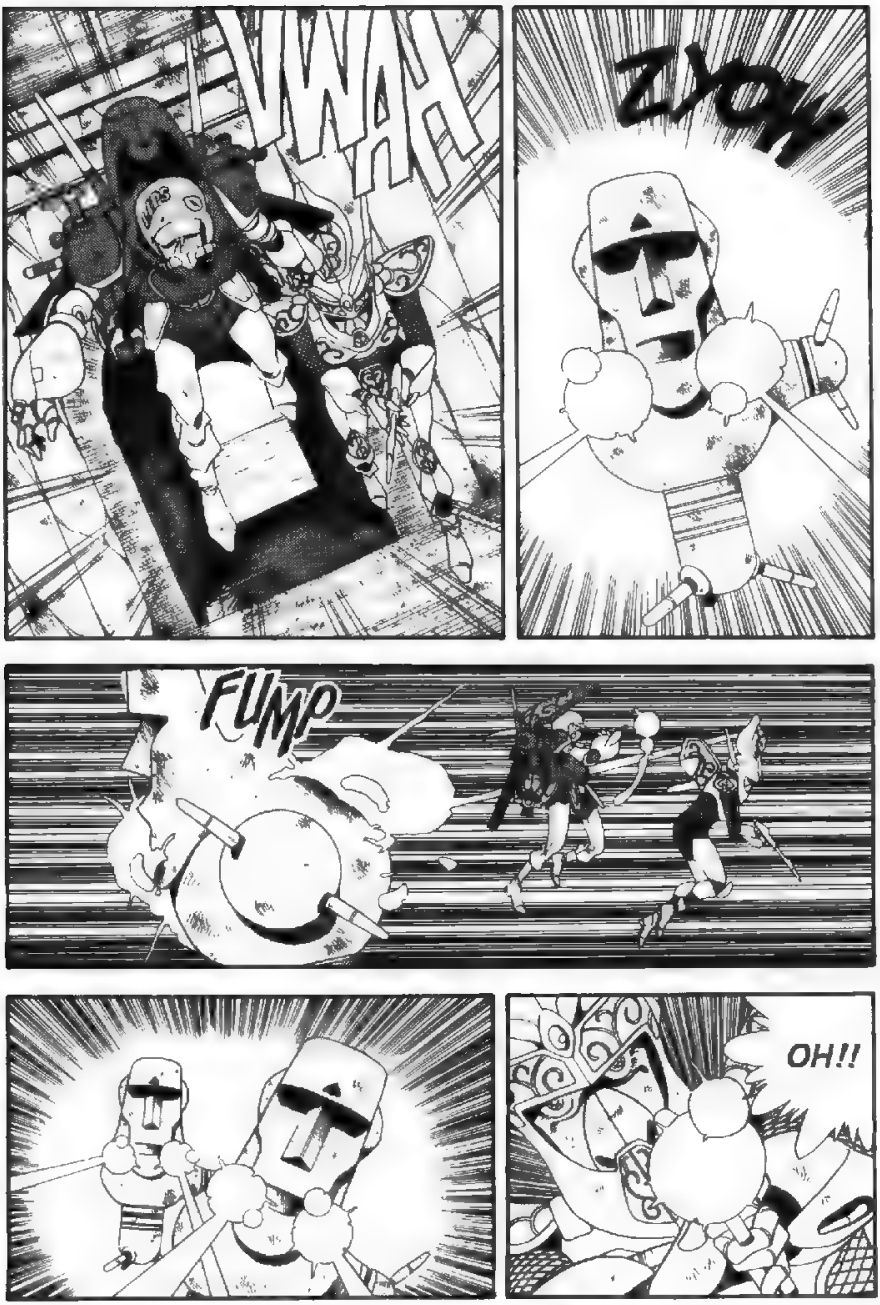
I INTEND TO!
KLAK

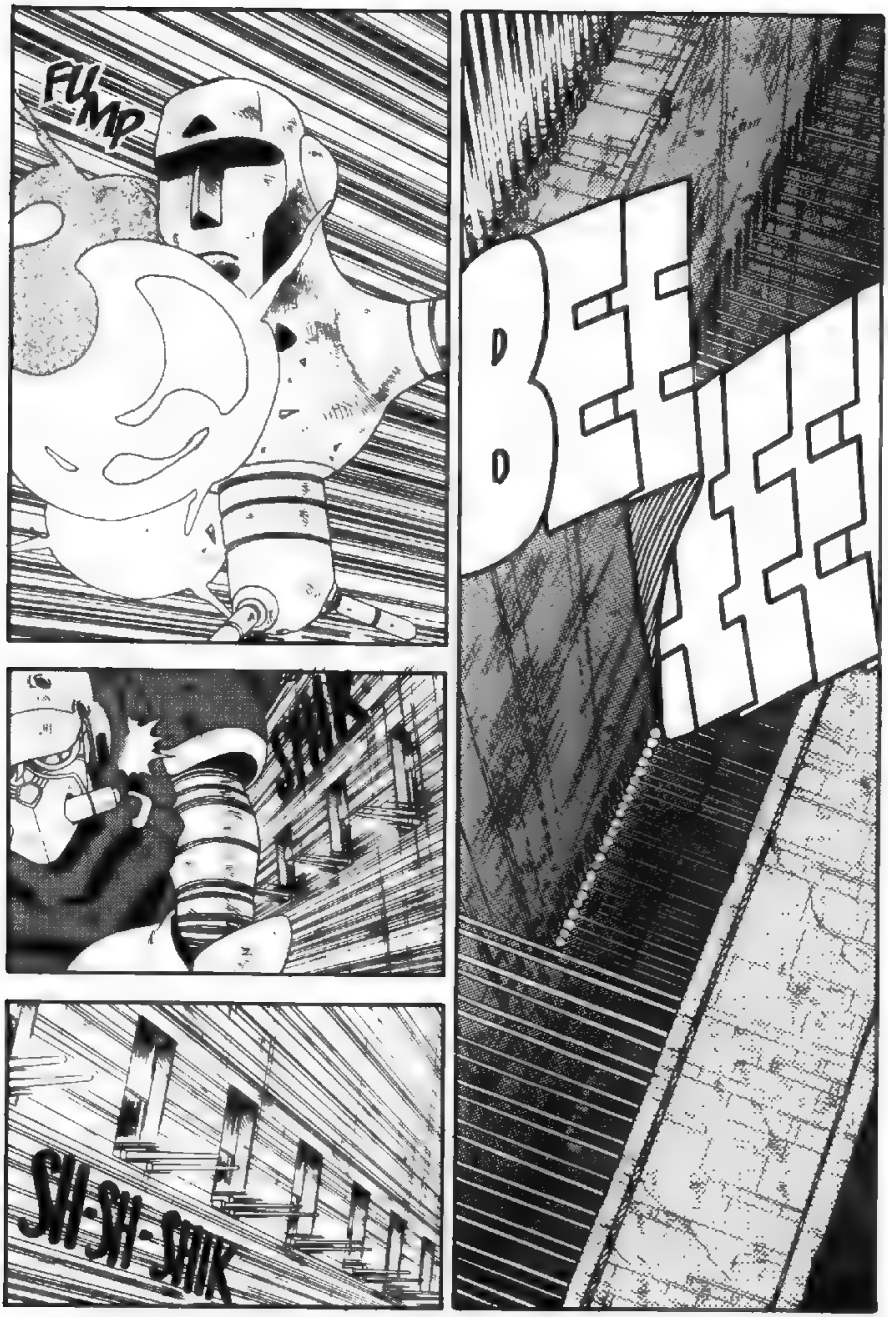

WHISH

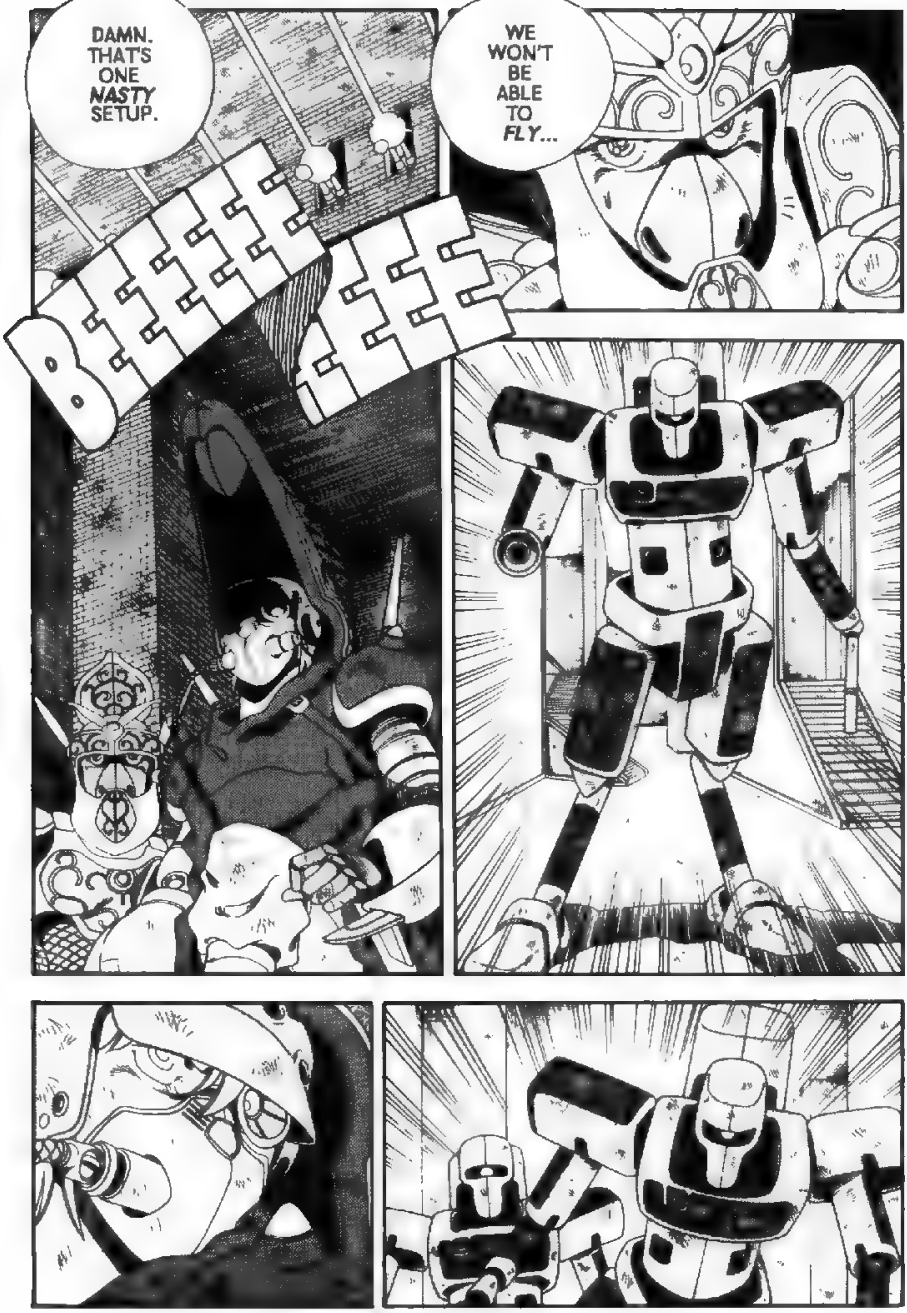


BWOOOM!
LET'S *ATTACK*, GREY!
FINE-- BUT THROUGH THE *GATE!*
THINK. TOY WILL BE EXPECTING A STRIKE FROM OVER THE WALLS.
YES... OF COURSE.

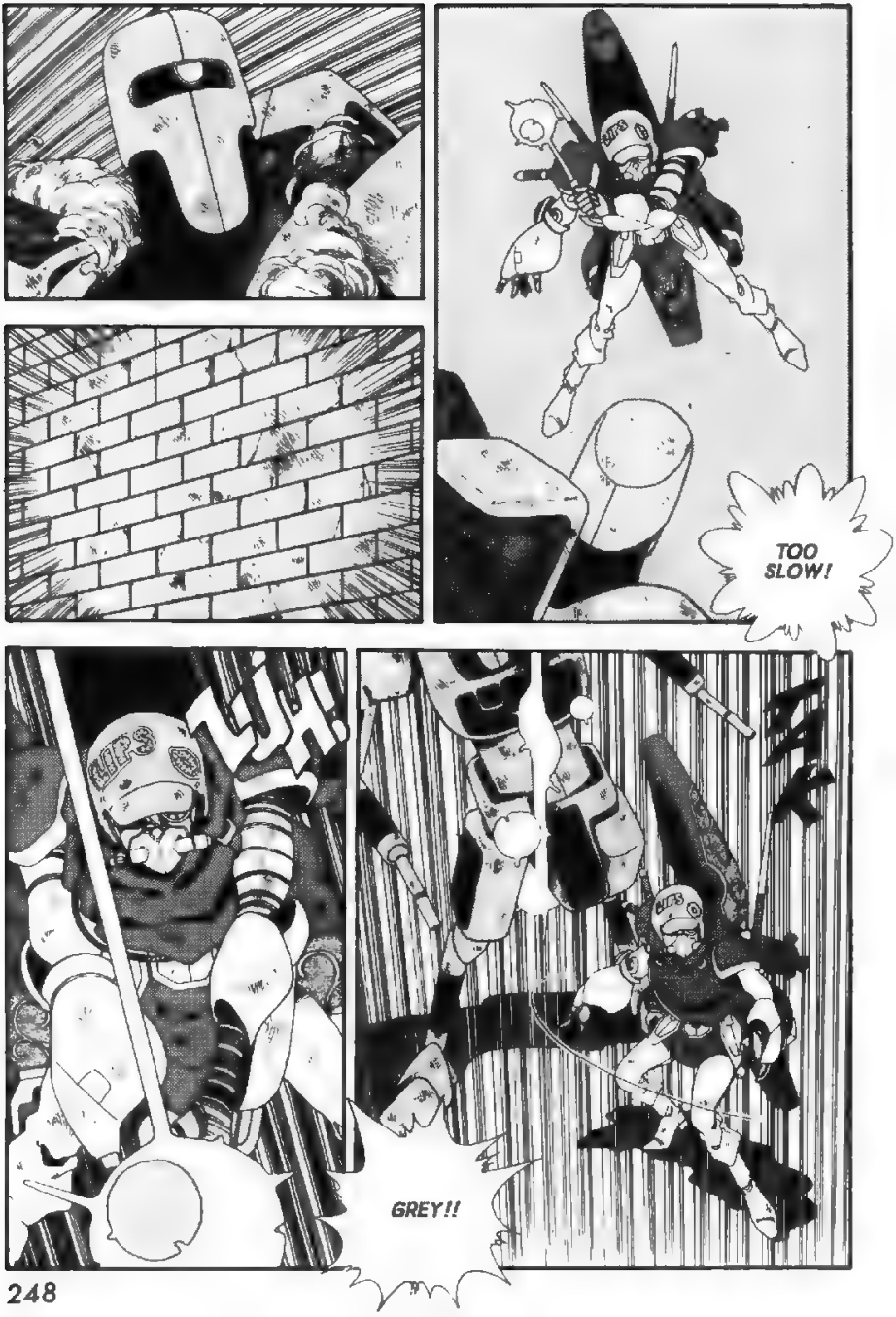

IS THAT THE SECRET OF YOUR SURVIVAL? CLEVERNESS?
NO. COWARDICE.
AND BECAUSE OF IT...
YES, GREY?
HANG A LEFT INSIDE THE GATE!
AS YOU SAY.


WAH
ZYOH
FUMP
OH!!

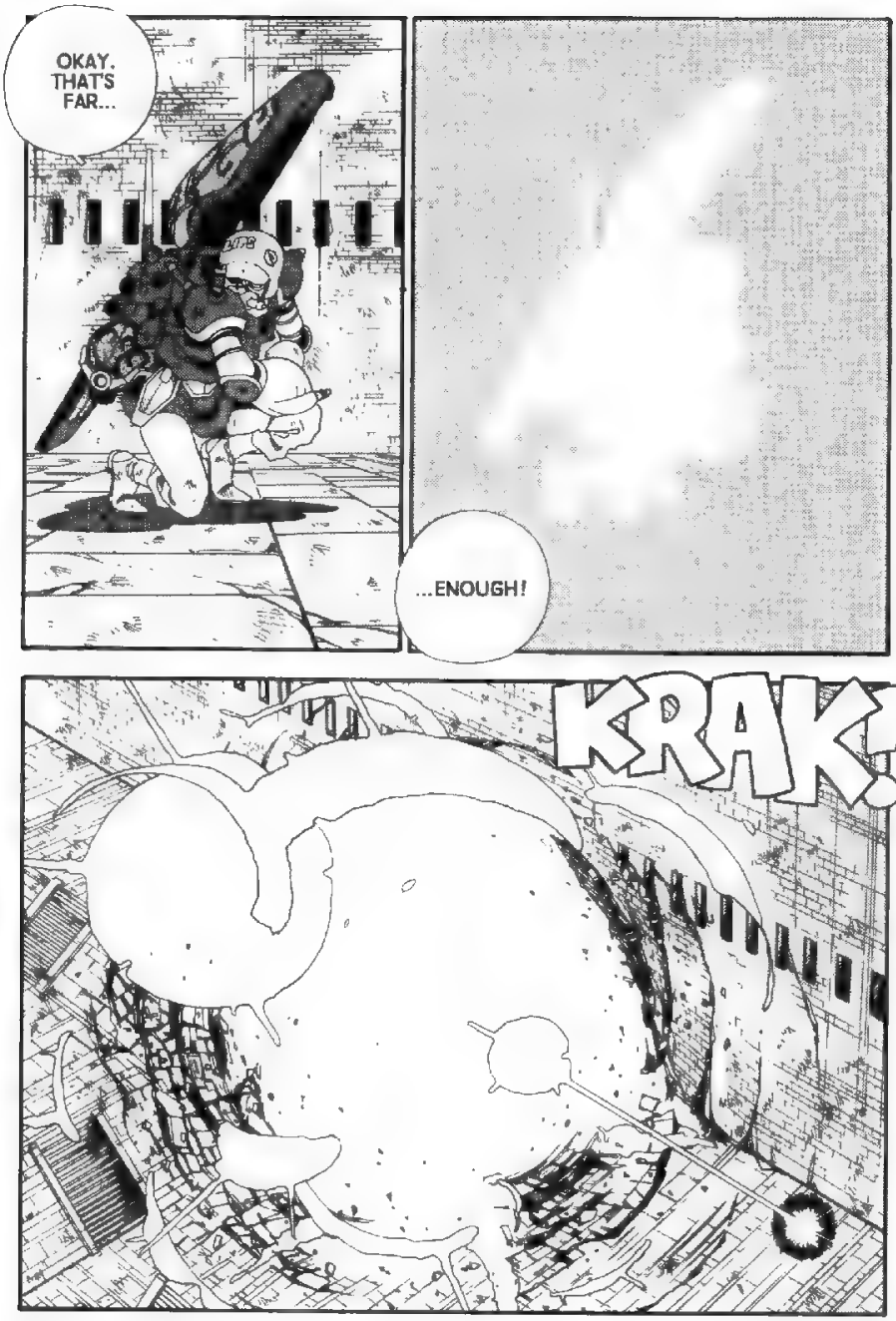

FLUMP
BEEEEE
SHIK
SH-SH-SHIK


DAMN. THAT'S ONE *NASTY* SETUP.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO *FLY*...
BEEEEEEEEEE

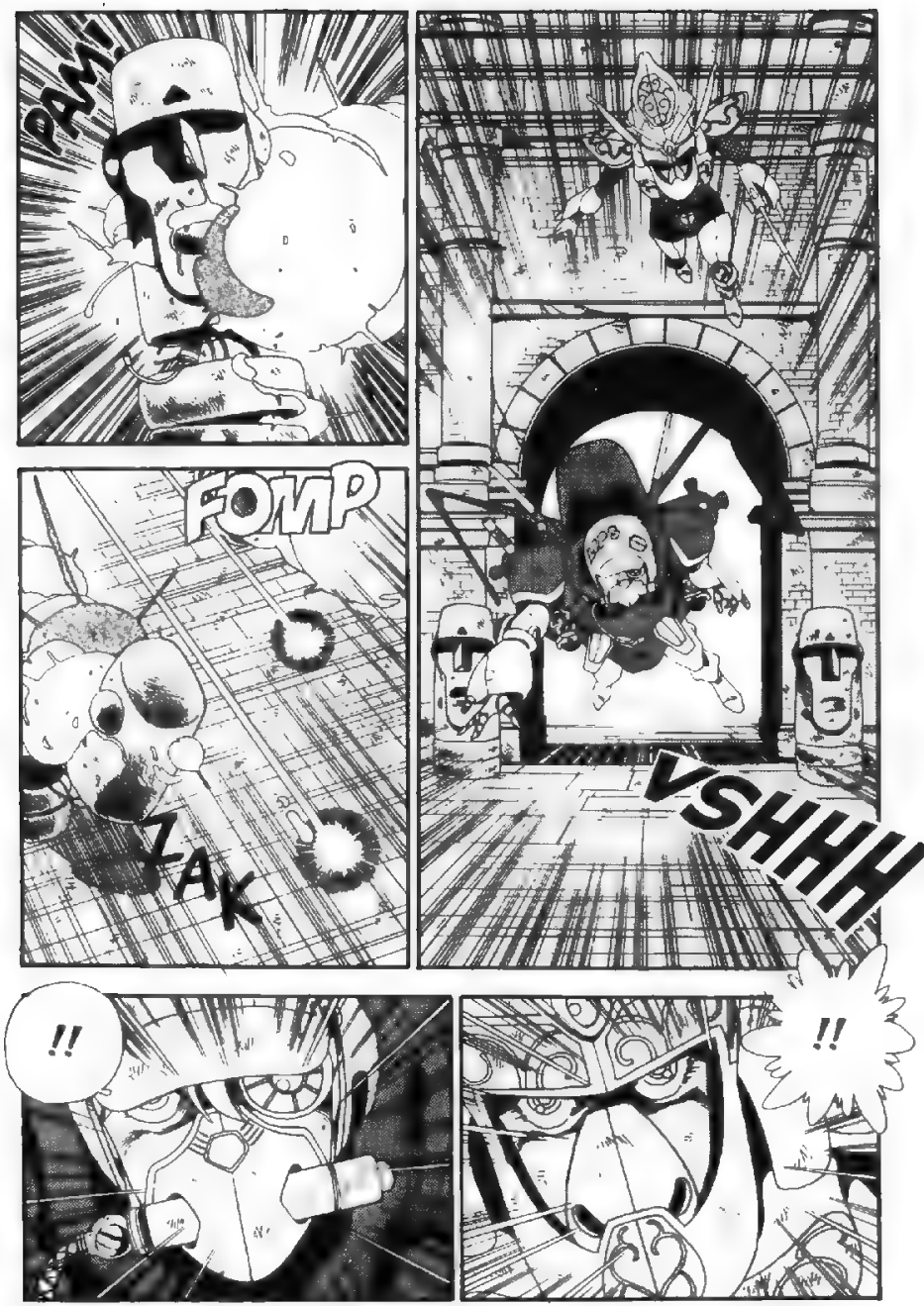
WELL, WELL.
AND LEAVE ME WITH HIS BACKSIDE, HUH?
HOOM
I'LL TAKE THE FRONT!
VOOM
I THOUGHT YOU *LIKED* IT THAT WAY.
PEW
ZAK

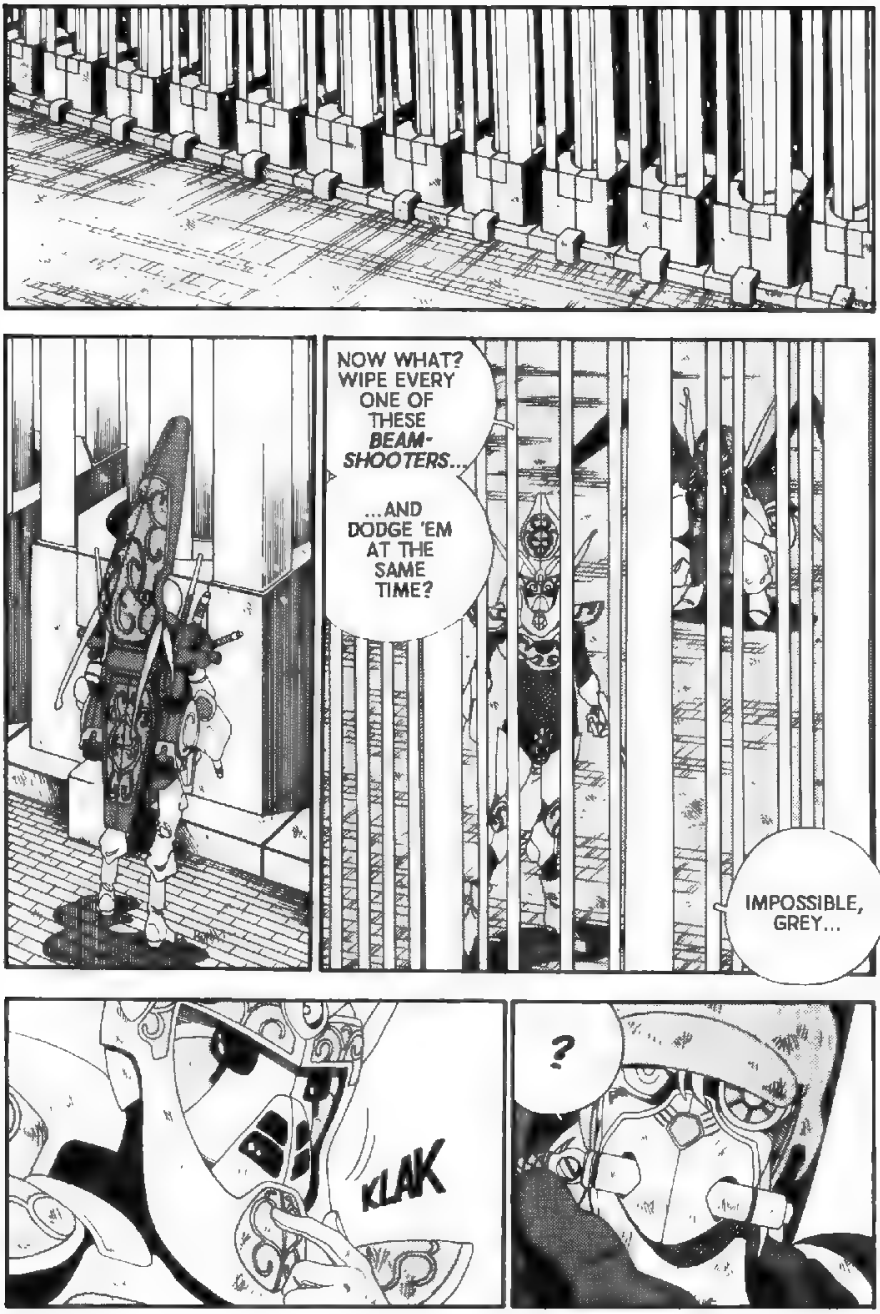

TOO SLOW!
ZJJH!
GREY!!

G-GKK KAKK
SPEAK UP, LARA! WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
WH- HUH-- WHAT--
ZHAK
STUBBORN BASTARDS.
--DO YOU THINK?

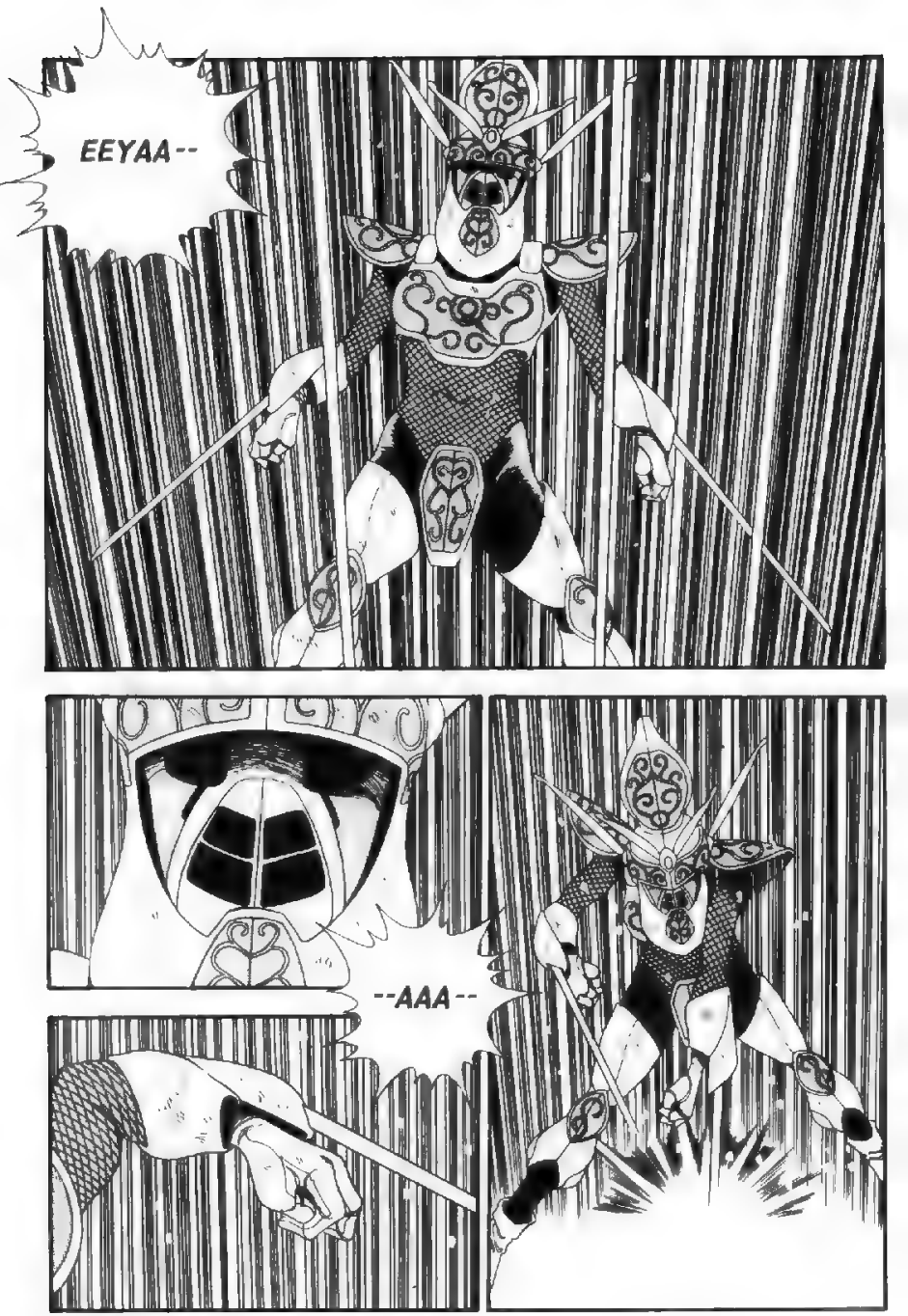

OKAY. THAT'S FAR...
...ENOUGH!
KRAK!

ZHOW
THERE'S THE GATE, GREY!
LET'S HIT IT TOGETHER.
I SEE IT.
PION
PYOW


PAM!
FOMP
ZAK
VSHHH
!!
!!


NOW WHAT? WIPE EVERY ONE OF THESE *BEAM-SHOOTERS*...
...AND DODGE 'EM AT THE SAME TIME?
IMPOSSIBLE, GREY...
KLAK
?

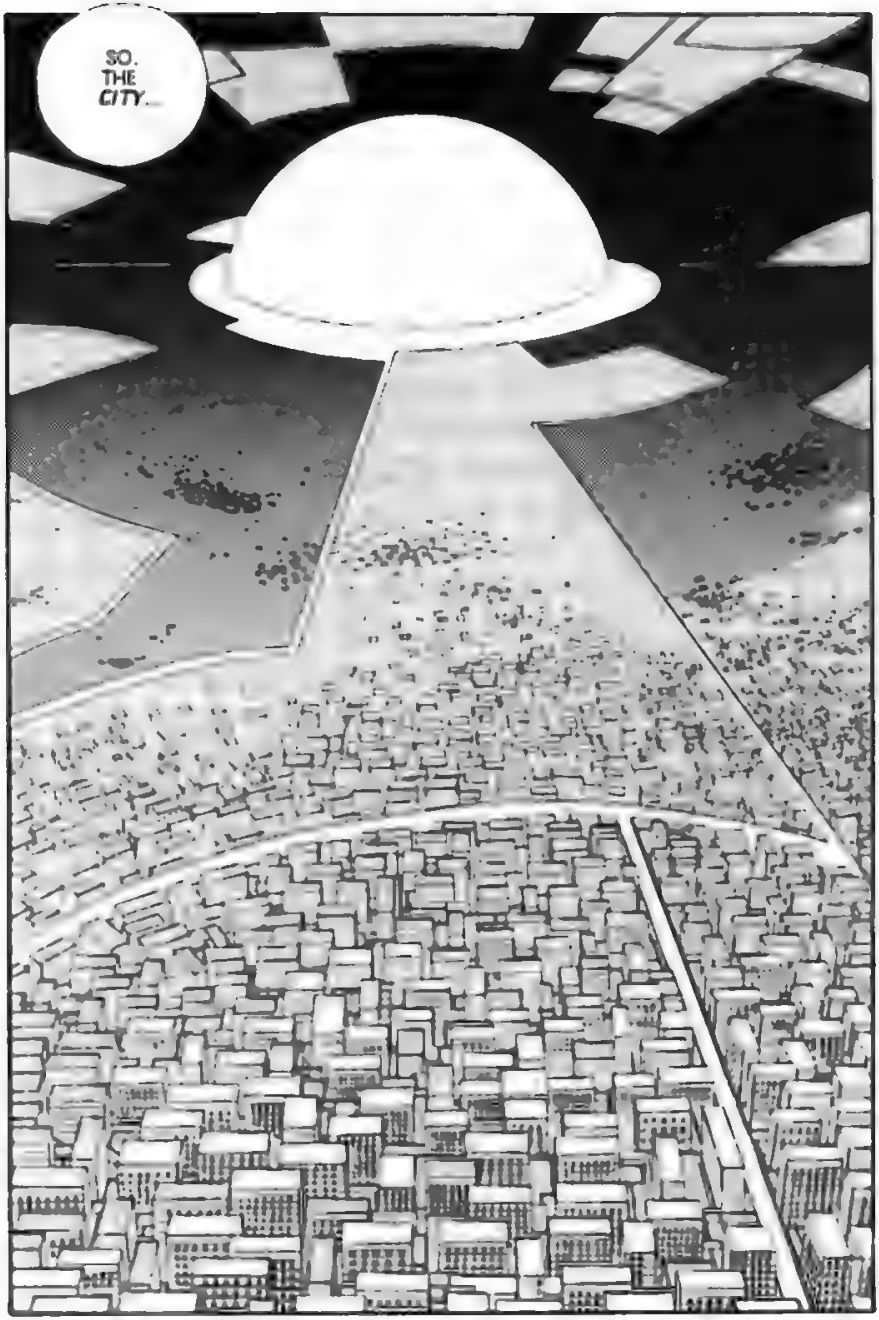
...SO I AM THE ONE WHO SHOULD DO IT.
beeeee
LARA--
LARA-- GET BACK HERE!
SHAH!
--COME BACK!!


EEYAA--
--AAA--

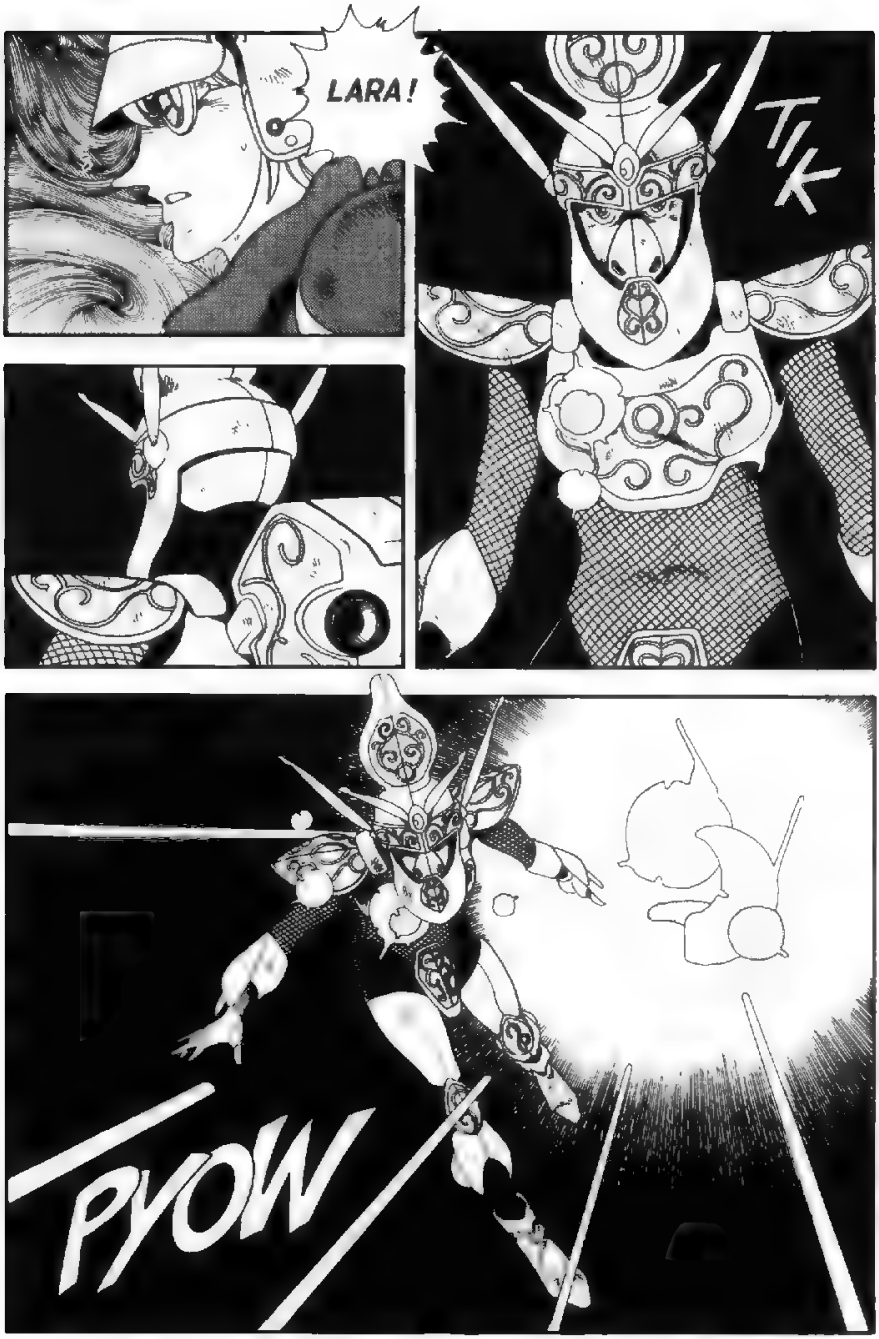
K-CHOW
--AAH!
--AAA--
BA, BABA BA BA BABA

IT'S... IT'S OKAY NOW...
...GREY.
WELL, WELL. HOW INSPIRING.
I DID IT FOR YOU, GREY.
BYEW
YOU GOT A GLITCH IN YOUR COMPUTER BRAIN?
POOM
YOU DID IT TO DESTROY TOY.

WELL... PERHAPS SO...
LIKE IT SHOULD BE.
CAN YOU WALK?
I'M FINE... THANK YOU.


SO.
THE
CITY...

IS THAT *CENTRAL CONTROL?*
I SUPPOSE... YES... YES...
I'M... I'M FINE...
...COME ALONG, GREY. LET'S ... LET'S GO...
YOUR EYES-- LIKE A *DEAD* WOMAN'S.
LARA...

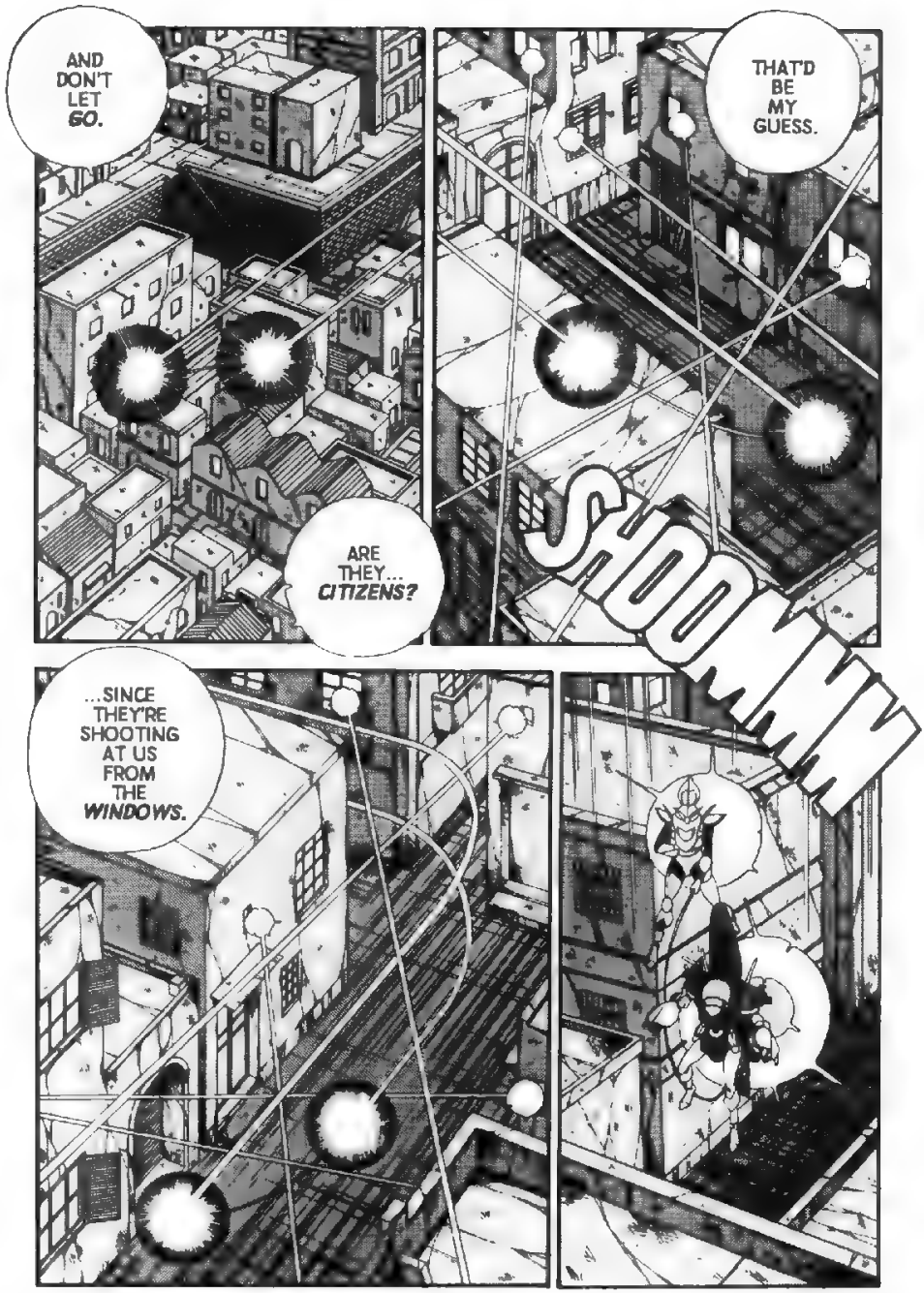

LARA!
TIK
PYOW

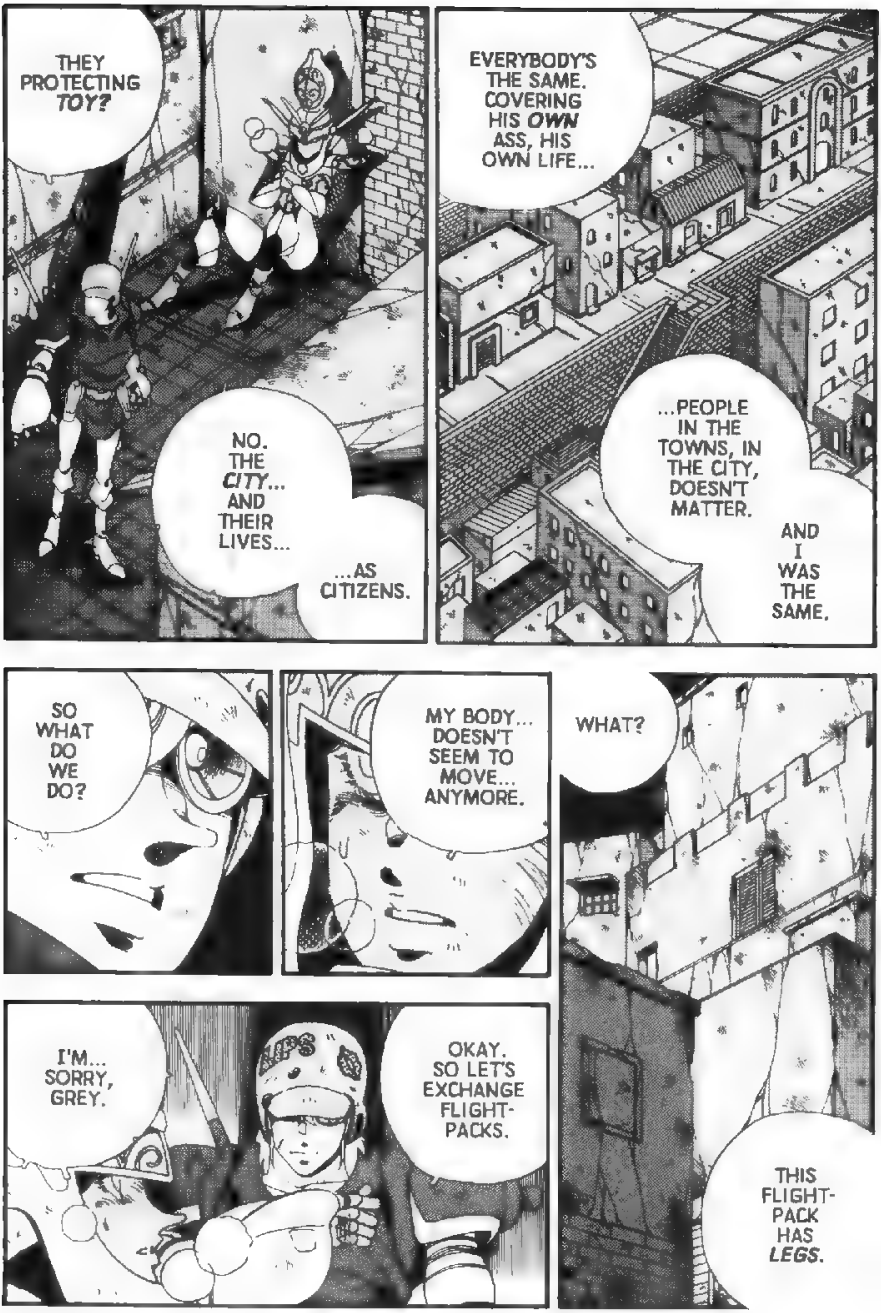
# Approach Eleven: TOY

LARA!!
SHAK
SHAK
CHIK
QUEEE
BIP
BIBIP

DAMN.
HEY. YOU STILL ALIVE?
FOR... THE MOMENT.
YOUR CHEST?
BEAM MUST HAVE GRAZED... HEART MECHANISM.

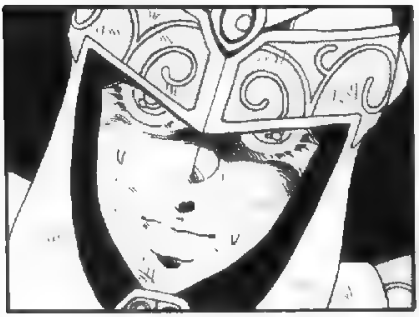
HOW LONG CAN YOU LAST?
...NOT LONG.
GREY!
GRAK
I...I CAN'T SAY, BUT...
HERE. GRAB HOLD OF THIS.

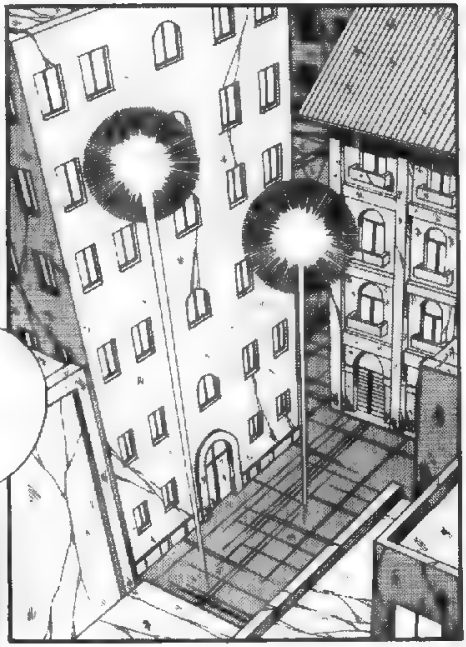

AND DON'T LET GO.
ARE THEY... CITIZENS?
THAT'D BE MY GUESS.
SHOOT!
...SINCE THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US FROM THE WINDOWS.


THEY PROTECTING *TOY?*
NO. THE *CITY*... AND THEIR LIVES...
...AS CITIZENS.
EVERYBODY'S THE SAME. COVERING HIS *OWN* ASS, HIS OWN LIFE...
...PEOPLE IN THE TOWNS, IN THE CITY, DOESN'T MATTER.
AND I WAS THE SAME.
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
MY BODY... DOESN'T SEEM TO MOVE... ANYMORE.
WHAT?
I'M... SORRY, GREY.
OKAY. SO LET'S EXCHANGE FLIGHT-PACKS.
THIS FLIGHT-PACK HAS *LEGS*.

I WANT YOU FIGHTING 'TIL YOU DIE...OR 'TIL WE FINALLY ICE *TOY.*

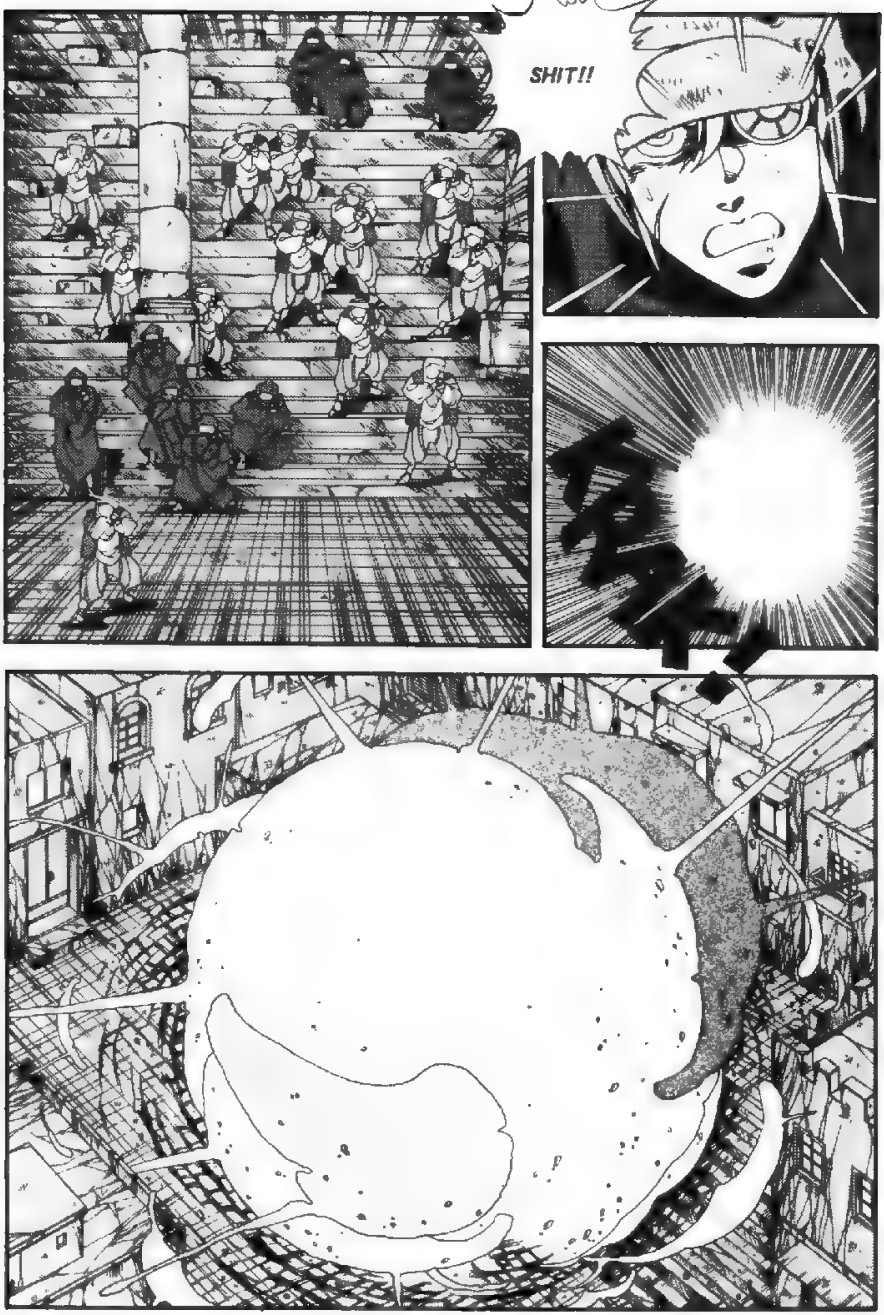
I WILL HELP YOU GREY...BUT... DON'T DO THIS FOR *ME...*
HA! IF SHIDARA COULD HEAR YOU NOW!





LET'S GO.

I'VE COME THIS FAR...
I CAN'T DIE YET!
PYEW
BAM
ZHOW
OOM
OH--
GREY!


SHIT!!

GR-GREY?
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
WHAT... WHAT...
THEY'RE *DOLLS?*

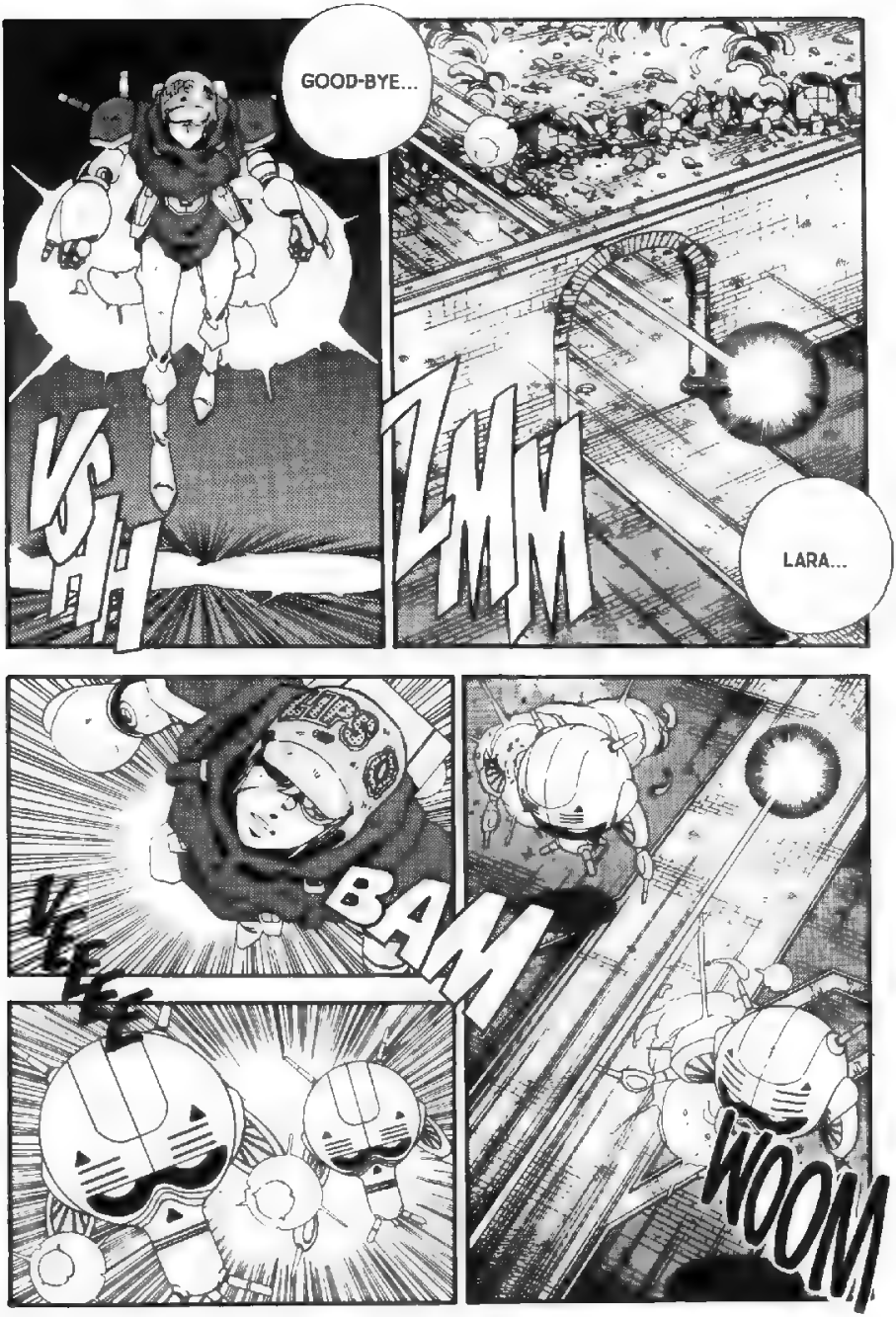
THIS ONE...
...AND THAT ONE, TOO...
...AND THIS...
ALL OF THEM. ALL DOLLS?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
YOU MEAN CITIZENS... ARE DOLLS?!
CHINK
LOOK OUT!
CITIZENS ARE...
PYEN
...ARE ALL...

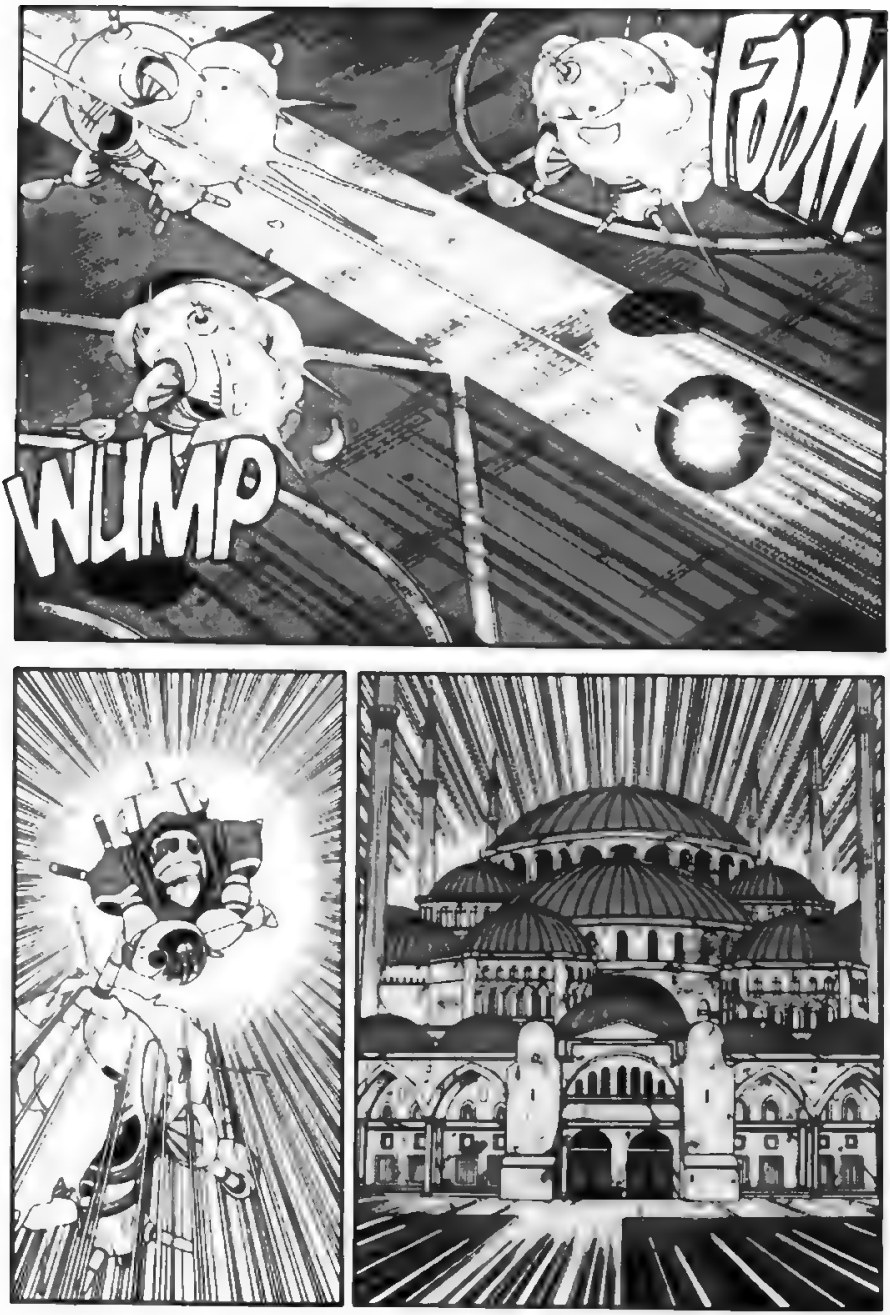
...ALL DOLLS!!
ZHAM
POOM
POOM
BYOW
PAK
KLUNK
RRR
RRR
RRR
GREY...

ARE WE GONNA LEARN THE TRUTH...
...IF WE GET THERE?
IF WE MEET *TOY?*

...DEAR GREY.
.....
GOOD... GOOD-BYE...
JZZT
JZZT

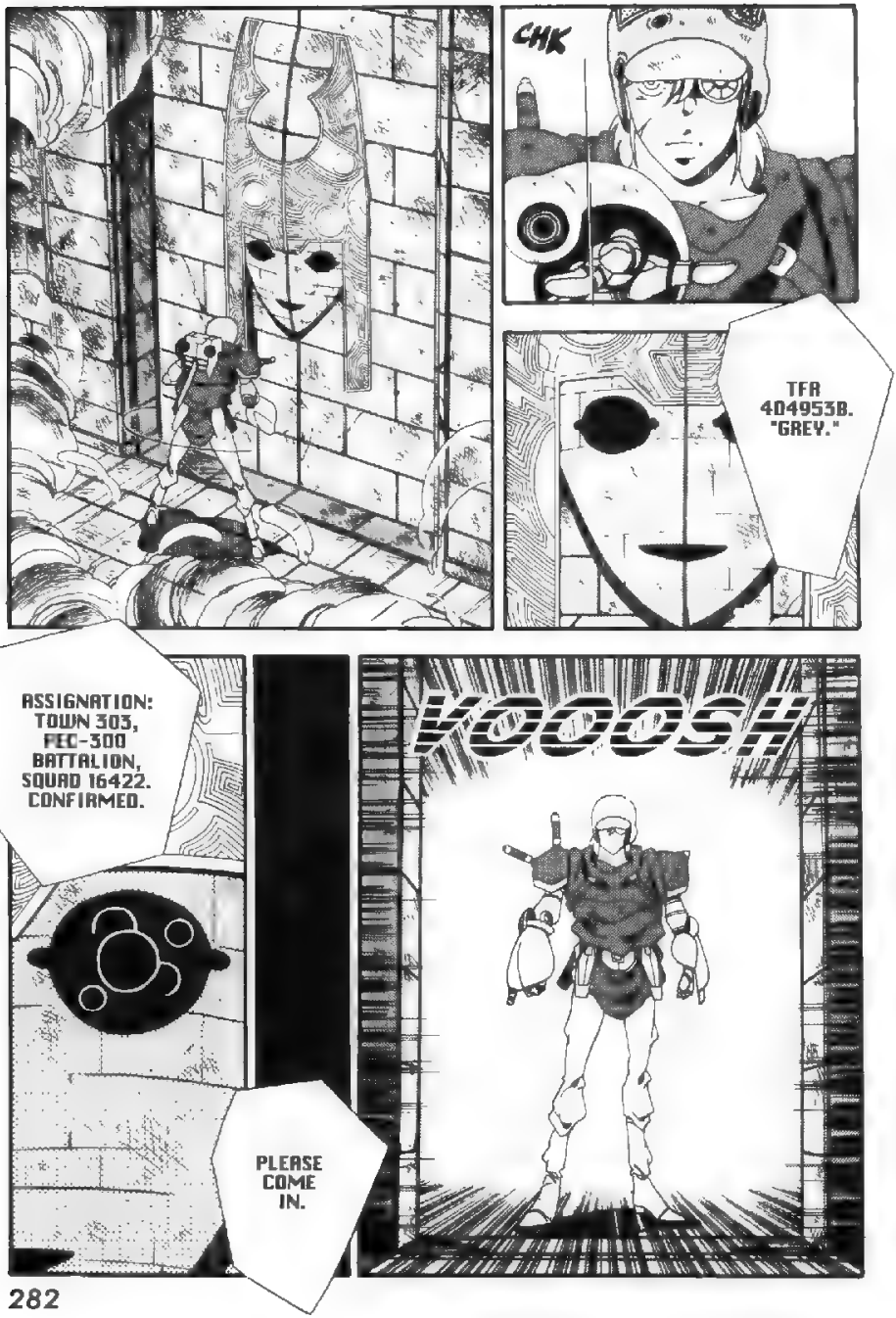
KRAK
RMRMRMRMRM
BA-BN
BOOM

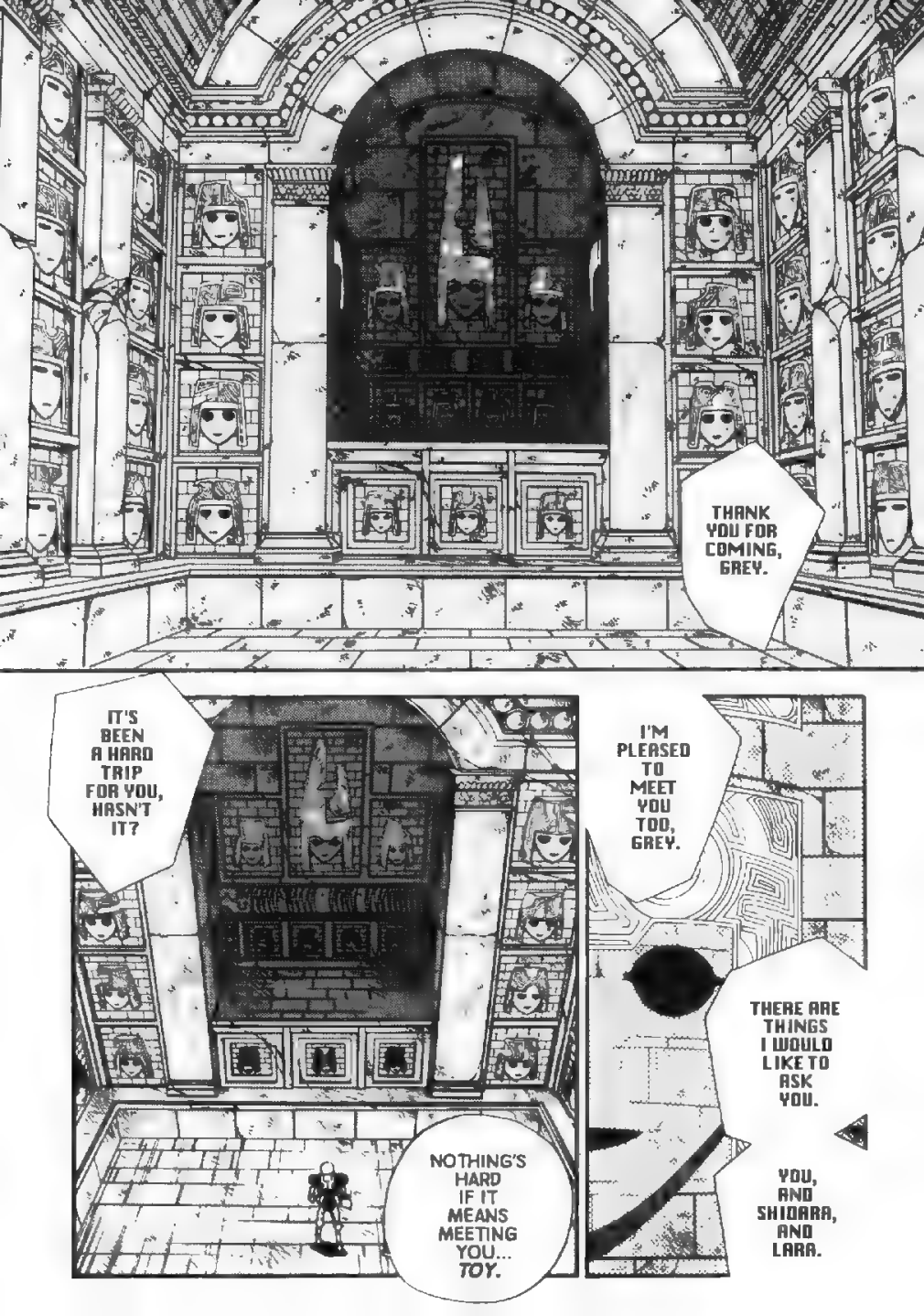

GOOD-BYE...
VSH
ZHM
LARA...
BAM
VEEE
WOOM


FOOM
WUMP

BLAM
CHAK
BOOM
BEHIND THAT WALL--

HYAHH!
PYEW
WHOOM
JZZZ
ZZOK!


CHK
TFR 404953B. "GREY."
ASSIGNATION: TOWN 303, PEC-300 BATTALION, SQUAD 16422. CONFIRMED.
PLEASE COME IN.
VOOOSH


THANK YOU FOR COMING, GREY.
IT'S BEEN A HARD TRIP FOR YOU, HASN'T IT?
NOTHING'S HARD IF IT MEANS MEETING YOU... TOY.
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU TOO, GREY.
THERE ARE THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU.
YOU, AND SHIDARA, AND LARA.

THAT'S GOOD, 'CAUSE THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO ASK 'YOU.
OH? AND WHAT IS THAT, GREY?
ALL THE CITIZENS-- THE CLASS A TROOPERS-- WHERE ARE THEY?
WHY ARE ALL THE CITIZENS DOLLS?
NOW, GREY. WE KNOW THAT MANKIND WANTS TO BECOME EXTINCT. DO CREATURES WHO WISH TO DIE REALLY NEED A PARADISE?
YOU MEAN... THERE'VE NEVER BEEN ANY CLASS A TROOPERS... FROM THE START?
OH, HOW PERCEPTIVE YOU ARE.
TOY, YOU CAN'T REALLY BELIEVE--

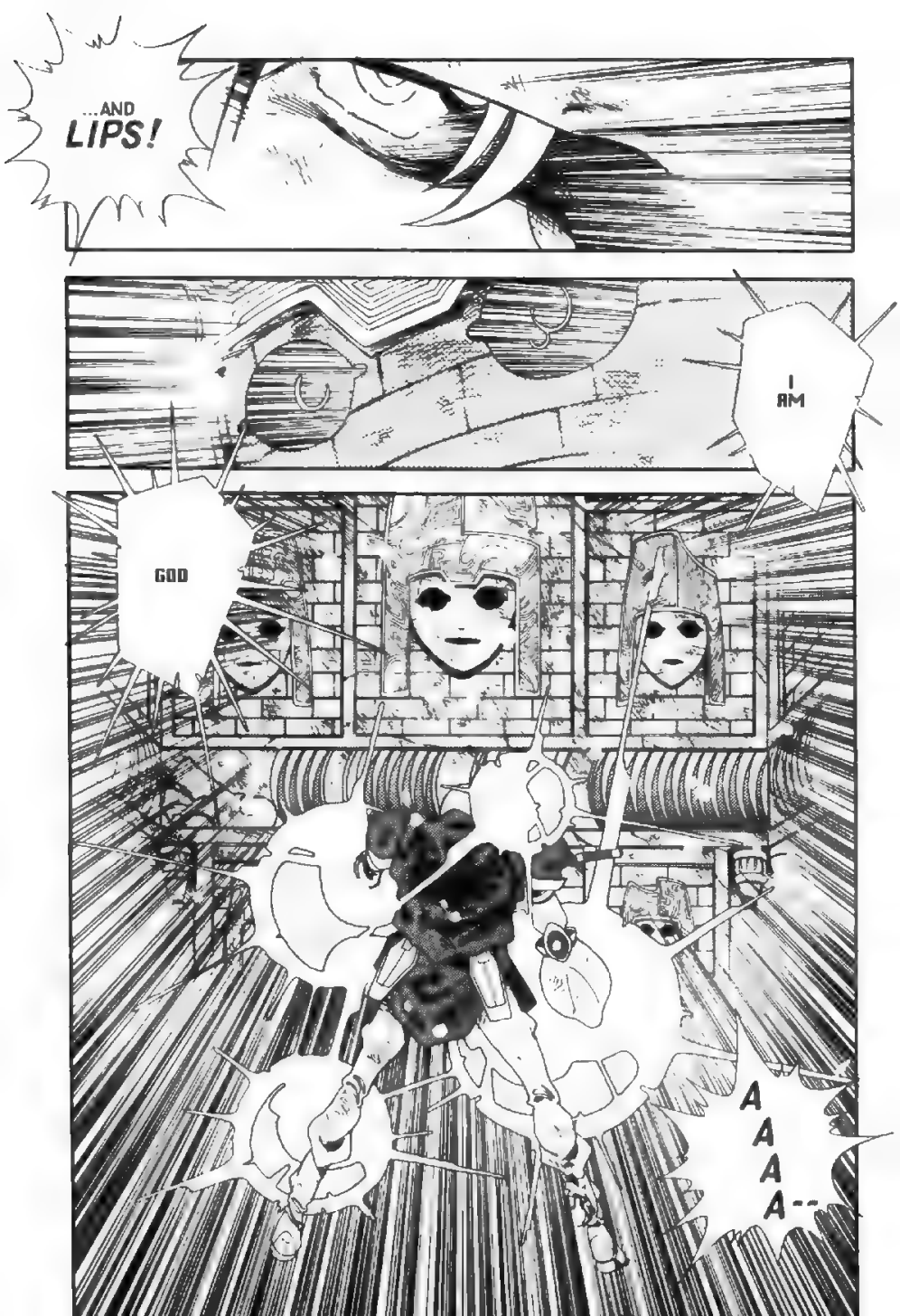
--YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MANKIND "WANTS TO BECOME EXTINCT"!
IF WE DO-- WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS *CITY?*
NO, GREY.
MANKIND WANTS TO BECOME EXTINCT.
BUT MOST PEOPLE SIMPLY WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE THAT.
IT'S SELF-DELUSION, THAT'S ALL.
THE CITY'S VALUE IS TO LET THEM SEE THAT.
WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE...
MAYBE IT'S *TRUE* SOMEHOW...
...BUT IF IT IS, WHY *SHOULD* WE ACKNOWLEDGE IT?
PEOPLE ARE *HAPPY,* NOT SEEING THAT!
BUT GREY. I ACKNOWLEDGED IT.

I AM DOING THIS FOR MANKIND.
SIMPLY TO FULFILL YOUR DESIRE.
STOP THIS LUNACY...
STOP THIS LUNACY!
KRAK!
!!

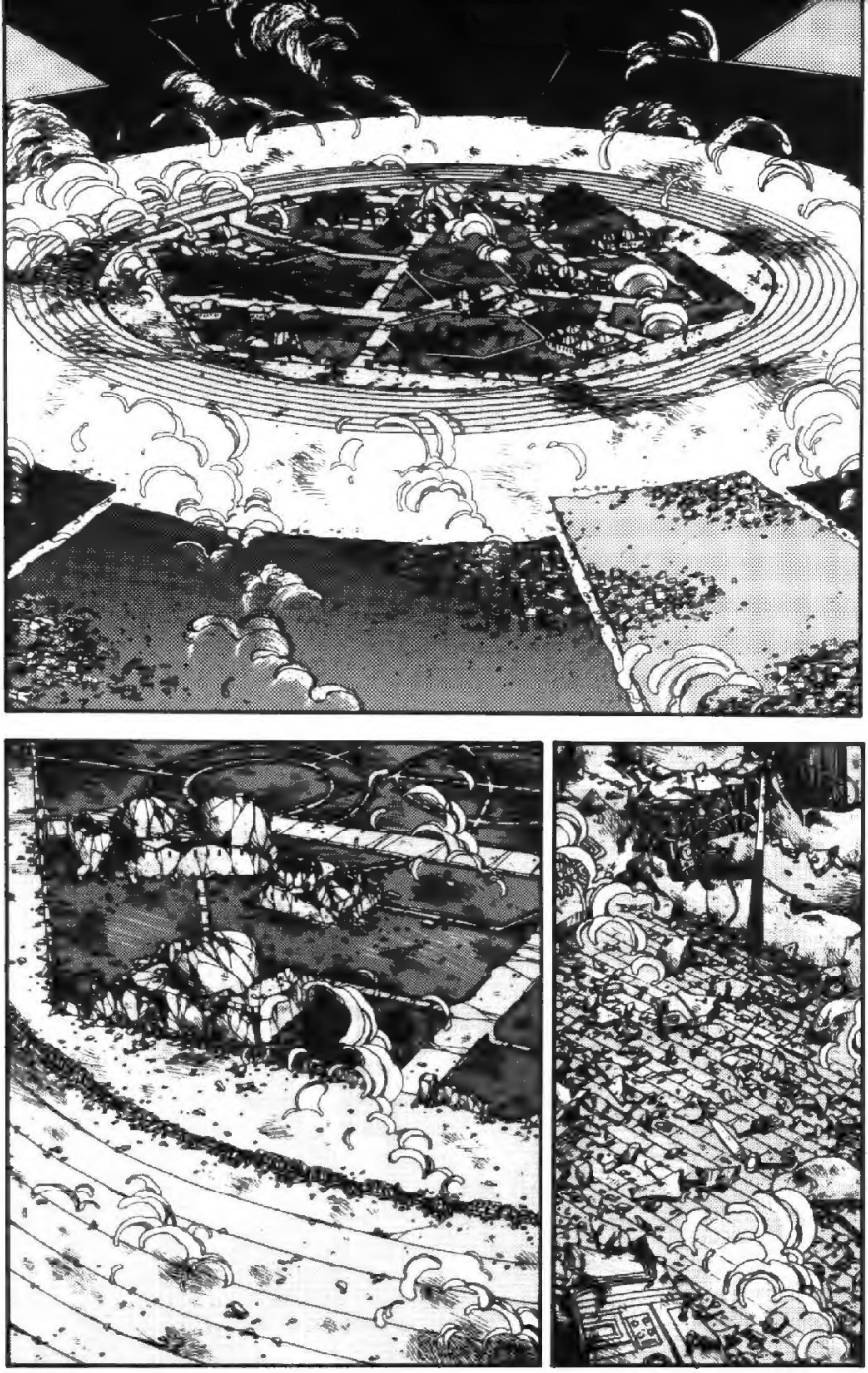
AAAA!
IT'S USELESS, GREY.
I'M PERFECT, YOU SEE.
ZHUN
I'M THE TRUTH.
I'M THE ABSOLUTE.
UNGH!
I'M GOD, GREY.
...GOD...

...GOD, HUH?
SO TOY IS... GOD.
AND YOU'LL STILL...
ZHOOK
YES. I AM GOD.
...STILL BE GOD... EVEN AFTER *MEN* "BECOME EXTINCT"?
BIP
WE'LL ALL BE... EXTINCT...
YOU'LL STILL BE GOD... WITH NOBODY... TO *SEE* YOU AS GOD?
GOD

...AND "GOD"... HAS BEEN FORCING IT ON US...
SO THEY ALL DIED...
PAK
UPS
I AM
BINK
BINK
...ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN.
LEO...
LEE...
RED...
SHIDARA... NOVA...
...AND LARA... AND...
I AM
TRUTH
BIP
SAK
ZZZT
PERFECT
ABSOLUTE


...AND
LIPS!
I
AM
GOD
A
A
A
A--

KBOOM!
BM
BM
BM
BM



THE END

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GREY is a wonderful adventure story that uses ideas in the best possible fashion: as motivational impetus for a crackling good tale of survival and development of a fascinating character. And if Grey himself is less than loveable, it is an important comment on how a society mad for war can devour and chill its citizens. GREY is also a powerful statement about the demeaning caste systems we create to keep others "in their place."

Robin Ellison

In the twenty-sixth century, after the destruction of civilization, the remnants of humanity began to draw together again in small, dirty villages, each controlled by a combination of armature sound Little Mama. Each town's "weapon," motivated by wild dreams that home prehistoric glory, would lead to advancement of their town and eventual "dominance" in the fabled City Jeggar.

Grey [illegible] on the other hand, [illegible] ultimate over the [illegible] of [illegible] becomes [illegible] trooper in an attempt [illegible] Gide his [illegible] or self-destruction. [illegible] Grey learns of the disappearance [illegible] friend Red [illegible] out in [illegible] Grey sets out [illegible] Rora, a [illegible] Being the way they [illegible] Grey [illegible], a fearsome wild [illegible] that Red has joined [illegible] fearsome forces of the [illegible] Yagoshi. When the [illegible] Yagoshi's [illegible] Rora [illegible] Grey [illegible] Grey [illegible] more.

STORY UP TO NOW

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GREY
VOLUME 7
Story and Art by
Yoshihisa Tagami

Approach Six: Ruins
Seven: Rope/Approa
Nagoshi, Part One/A
Eight: Nagoshi, Part
proach Eight: Nagosh
Three/Approach Nine:
Approach Ten: The C
One/Approach Ten:
Part Two/Approach
Translator's Note: A
at Grey

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VOLUME 7
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Approach Six: Ruins/Approach Seven: Rope/Approach Eight: Nagoshi, Part One/Approach Eight: Nagoshi, Part Two/Approach Nine: Approach Ten: The City, Part One/Approach Ten: The City, Part Two/Approach Eleven: Translator's Note: A Word on Such Things as Grey

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